

Jordan Times

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Costa Rica knocked out

BAKI (R) — A hot-trick by curly stickler Tomas Skuhravy gave Czechoslovakia a 3-0 win over Costa Rica in the second round of the World Cup Saturday. Skuhravy's goal made him the tournament's leading scorer with a tally of five and signalled the end of the line for Costa Rica after their remarkable success in the first round. Three leaders by Skuhravy in the 11th, 22nd and 24th minutes and a spectacular long-range free-kick from Ladislav Koubek in the 76th minute put paid to the hopes of the Costa Rican part-timers who upset Scotland and Sweden on their way to the last 16. Ronald Goetsch replied with a header from a free-kick in the 55th minute but it was not enough to stop Josef Vengler's side reaching the quarter-finals where they will meet the winner of Sunday's clash between West Germany and the Netherlands.

Cameroon ousts Colombia, page 9

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Fahd donates \$20m to Intifada

RIYADH (AP) — King Fahd on Saturday made a personal donation of \$20 million to support the Palestinian Intifada, it was officially announced. The covering check was received by Prince Salman, governor of Riyadh and chairman of the Popular Committee for Support of the Palestinian Struggle, according to an announcement by the Saudi Press Agency. The committee is in charge of collecting donations for the Palestinian refugees and those under occupation. The agency quoted Prince Salman as saying "this personal gesture of support from King Fahd is to affirm his concern and following up of the Palestinian problem and the justice of the Palestinian people against the Zionist enemy." The Saudi government is already the leading aid donor to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Palestinian uprising in line with resolutions for such decisions adopted by consecutive Arab summits.

AMU prepares for Algiers summit

TUNIS (R) — Foreign Ministers of five North African states met in Tunis Saturday to prepare for an Arab Maghreb Union summit due to take place in Algiers next month. The ministers — from Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia — are looking at draft agreements on a customs union, free trade in agricultural products, investment protection, and double taxation. Tunisian Foreign Minister Ismail Khelil told the opening session of the meeting. They will also discuss plans to give the 18-month-old union a permanent secretariat to coordinate the integration process. A summit in Tunis in January agreed to create the secretariat but the Algerian and Moroccan governments have not yet ratified the necessary amendments to the union treaty.

Algerian party offices ransacked

ALGIERS (R) — The opposition Socialist Forces Front (FFS) said it downed an Algerian office was ransacked early Saturday morning. Unidentified persons forced open the door and emptied drawers and filing cabinets, tearing and lifting membership lists and cards across the floor. A party official said a telephone, typewriter, money and blank video cassettes were missing. The Algerian news agency AFS said police had arrested two people and charged them with carrying out the attack.

Seized Soviet plane leaves Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — A Soviet civilian plane flown to Turkey Monday by its asylum-seeking pilot, was allowed to leave Saturday with a replacement crew on board, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said. The Antonov-2 aircraft seized by pilot Valeri Yurevic was flown to Istanbul's Ataturk airport by a four-man Soviet aircrew late Friday for refuelling before heading back to Odessa. Yurevic, 29, who landed near Kandira on the Black Sea coast, appeared before a local prosecutor to hear charges of illegal entry and was fined only 10,000 lira (\$3). The Anatolian news agency said. A military spokesman in a Kandira para-military gendarmerie unit told Reuters that Yurevic was still being questioned at the base.

India takes its case to Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — Indian Home Affairs Minister Mufi Mohammad Sayeed, on an Arab tour to counter the Pakistan view of violence in Kashmir, said Saturday he had shown Tunisian leaders evidence that Islamabad backed terrorism. "Pakistan is 'aiding and abetting terrorism in Kashmir and Punjab. We have produced concrete proof whereby Pakistan has a large number of training camps, where people from Kashmir and Punjab are trained on arms and given financial help," Sayeed told a news conference in Tunis. Militants in Kashmir are fighting for independence or a merger with Pakistan, while Sikh militants want independence in Punjab.

Aftershocks rock Iran as dead buried en masse

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Three strong aftershocks rocked northern Iran Saturday as hopes faded of finding many more buried victims alive three days after an earthquake killed at least 40,000 people.

But rescuers freed a woman from a pile of rubble in the flattened town of Roodbar, still alive and clutching a dead child, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

Victims in the town of 10,000 people were buried in mass graves "without counting the bodies" because of the heavy death toll, it said. The quake destroyed the only hospital there.

The U.S. government prepared to airlift blankets, tents, water jugs and other relief supplies to Iran, saying it was informed by Iranian authorities that American assistance would be welcome.

The biggest aftershock, registering 4.2 on the Richter scale, rocked the Tarom-E Oila region 200 kilometres northwest of Tehran at 11:14 a.m. (0744 GMT), the agency said.

Another shock had jolted the northern provincial capital of Rasht early in the morning, "making panic-stricken residents take to the streets," it said. There was also a third aftershock. "Aftershocks, which continue in the mountainous areas, are endangering relief operation," the agency said.

The PLO condemned the U.S. decision, saying it would push the Middle East towards war. A PLO communiqué issued late Thursday after a 24-hour meeting of the PLO Executive Committee accused Washington of using the May 30 raid by the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) as a pretext to break the dialogue (PLF ready to accept disciplinary action, page 2).

The American decision to suspend the dialogue contradicts the responsible attitude a superpower like the United States must take towards the Middle East peace process and world peace in general," the PLO communiqué said. Bush had been under pressure

from Israel to end the talks with the PLO. Charging that Washington was biased in favour of Israel, the PLO called for world help in convening an international conference on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

The PLO made its call for the emergency Arab League conference at the end of a meeting in the Iraqi capital Friday night between Arafat, Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibi and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

The three discussed foreign threats against Arab security, Bush's decision and the current Soviet Jewish exodus to Israel and the occupied territories, the PLO spokesman said.

He said the PLO had called for another urgent meeting of the nine-member Arab committee for the support of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories next Thursday. The committee also comprises Arab foreign ministers.

The spokesman said the nine-member committee, formed at the June 1988 Arab summit in Algiers, should discuss implementation of the 30-month-old uprising made at the Arab summit in Baghdad last month.

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The list included the United States, Israel, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Kuwait. U.S. officials in Washington say the American offer was accepted but the aid would be channelled through humanitarian organisations.

It is unclear what will come of some of the others but most, even Iraq's, have been reported in the Iranian news media.

Relief agencies sending doctors from Western Europe were uncertain whether they would be allowed to stay. An Egyptian plane loaded with medical supplies was told from Tehran not to take off.

The United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation says medical and rescue teams are being discouraged from going to Iran. But some official statements about "help not wanted" have been contradicted or quietly ignored, perhaps because the rising death toll and dawning grasp of the scale of the catastrophe forced second thoughts.

The world's willingness to help and Iran's decision how much aid to accept could have important effects on its future relations with its neighbours and the West. Amid conflicting signals, only Israel and South Africa have been publicly told that their help will be refused by Iran, a country of 55 million resourceful people,

more than nine-tenths of whom live outside the disaster area. Rafsanjani, shocked by what he saw on a helicopter flight over two devastated provinces, told Iranian television on Friday that foreign help was needed.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi denied on Saturday that foreign medical and relief teams were barred from the stricken northwest.

By Saturday afternoon doctors and rescue teams from France and the Soviet Union were reported at work in Gilan province, which suffered the worst of the devastation.

The official news agency IRNA also reported that a group of foreign journalists had gone to Gilan.

Jordan sends aid to Iran

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In a humanitarian gesture, Jordan, despite its cool relations with Iran, has joined the international community in sending medical assistance to help Iran in the aftermath of a giant earthquake which killed over 40,000 people and injured 100,000 last week.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran, addressing a session of the Lower House of Parliament, said Saturday he ordered the government Friday to dispatch a medical team and a plane load of medical supplies to Iran.

Badran also told the House that he had sent a cable of condolences to Iranian President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani on behalf of the government and people of Jordan.

"We were deeply pained by the death of thousands of people in the earthquake, and, on behalf of the government and people of Jordan, I convey our profound sympathy," said the cable, which was carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

At the prime minister's behest, the House as well as members of the Cabinet attending Saturday's session, observed a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the quake.

Although it was not clear when the medical supplies would be sent, Badran told the House that "we instructed our government on Friday to immediately send a team and a plane carrying medicine to Tehran within Jordan's abilities to help ease the suffering of the brotherly Islamic Iranian people."

House Speaker Suleiman Arar announced that he had

Gorbachev 'will not quit as party chief'

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Saturday he would not step down as Communist Party chief and he issued a dramatic appeal for party unity.

Speaking at the end of a Russian party conference, he said the posts of state president and party general secretary would eventually have to be divided.

But the 59-year-old Kremlin chief, who holds both posts, added: "How I am convinced that we have to keep the situation as it is because we now have the most crucial situation."

Gorbachev made his comments in an emotional reply to delegates' questions at the end of the new Russian Communist Party conference in which he came under fierce attack by conservatives because of his radical economic reforms.

Gorbachev, at times wagging his finger in anger at the delegates who had attacked his reform policies, appealed to Communists to heal their differences before a crucial central Soviet party congress next month.

"A split in the party would lead to the biggest polarisation of forces in society and weaken the constructive forces in the country," he said.

"At this decisive stage of perestroika (restructuring) it would be a gift to those who want to bury perestroika and defeat it."

Earlier, the new Russian Communist Party elected a hardline opponent of Kremlin reform as its chief — and he said he wanted Gorbachev to stay on as leader of the Soviet party.

Surprising almost everybody, Ivan Polozkov said of Gorbachev: "I will support him remaining in his role as both president and general secretary or chairman of the party."

Polozkov, 55, elected head of the 11-million strong Russian party, made his comment at a news conference amid expectation that Gorbachev would face a fight to retain the post of party chief at next month's congress.

Polozkov, through speeches and actions as party boss in his home base of Krasnodar, southern Russia, has earned the reputation of a conservative hardliner opposed to many of Gorbachev's economic reforms.

It had been assumed he would join conservatives such as politburo member Yegor Ligachev in pressing Gorbachev to quit his party post and concentrate on his duties as Soviet state president.

Instead, Polozkov said: "We have to join the two posts of president and general secretary so that he (Gorbachev) can be most active and influential in pursuing perestroika."

"It is a key time, a difficult time for our country. Presidential power has not yet realised its full potential and the power of the party can not yet be written off," he added.

Quake seen possible in Jordan, but when?

By Abdullah Hassanat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Scientific studies indicate the possibility of an earthquake occurring along the Jordan Valley rift and measuring six points on the Richter Scale, Dr. Zuhair Issa of the University of Jordan's Geology Department said Saturday.

Dr. Issa, however, said it was still very difficult to predict the approximate timing of such a quake. He added that historical and geological studies show that earthquakes along the Jordan Valley — Dead Sea rift — occur at intervals of about 100 years. The last earthquake hit the region in 1927 and measured 6.25 points on the Richter Scale.

Dr. Issa said that if an earthquake would be centred on the Dead Sea it would affect an area of 500-kilometre radius. But he could not predict the damage nor could he comment on Jordanian buildings' earthquake resistance. He, however, emphasised that "earthquake are God's signs and occur by His will."

Dr. Issa advised people in case of an earthquake to stay out, sit in the centre of the house and if in open air stay away from power lines.

Dr. Issa said that his department registered a number of varying intensity tremors that hit Iran in the last two days. He added that seismological equipment in Jordan had registered a noticeably active seismological movement in Jordan during the last few years.

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Bostonians greet Mandela with jubilation

BOSTON (AP) — Nelson Mandela was given a jubilant welcome Saturday morning in Boston, a city cloaked in the colours of the freedom fighter's banner of black, green and gold.

Mandela and his entourage arrived at Logan international airport as a throng of supporters chanted and screamed a welcome. He was greeted by Boston dignitaries and presented with flowers by two young girls, native of South Africa now living here.

An enthusiastic crowd danced a traditional South African dance. Mandela, showing little signs of weariness, joined in with a few steps.

Before being whisked to his next stop, Mandela praised Boston for its role in the American revolution and in South Africa's anti-apartheid movement.

"On a personal note, the city of Boston has been responsible for looking after my children, my daughter and son-in-law," he said.

Zenani Mandela and her husband live in Boston, and Mandela said while in jail he worried about them here so far from their family. But the city "stood behind our family and took over the task of parents to my children."

Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis was among the throng waiting for Mandela's plane.

"We were the first state to say we wouldn't put our pension fund money in South Africa. Mr. Mandela knows this and appreciates this," Dukakis said.

Boston has been eagerly anticipating Mandela's one-day stay. The black, green and gold African National Congress (ANC) flag flew at city hall plaza. Green and gold billboards placed at strategic locations welcomed Mandela and his wife, Winnie. Banners were raised and traffic blocked on selected streets in preparation for the visit.

Mandela left New York earlier Saturday, after he outshined Eddie Murphy, Robin Williams and dozens of other celebrities at a big-money fund-raiser that capped his historic visit. Before leaving from John F. Kennedy international airport, Mandela told reporters he hopes to come back to New York.

The ANC leader told the luminary-sprinkled crowd Friday night that the cultural boycott against South Africa is as important as economic sanctions in keeping pressure on the government.

Earlier Friday, Mandela spoke at the United Nations and talked privately with business leaders at the World Trade Centre.

His message was the same everywhere on his three-day visit to New York: "Keep the pressure on" until apartheid is abolished.

The administration of U.S. President George Bush brushed aside Mandela's support for anti-American leaders and said Friday that his meetings here next week will focus on negotiations to end apartheid in South Africa.

Bush and other administration officials will ask Mandela on Monday about his "road map for negotiations" with South Africa's government, Assistant Secretary

of State Herman Cohen told reporters in Washington Friday.

Cohen, who heads the State Department's Africa affairs bureau, said he believes agreement will be reached soon on releasing South African political prisoners and that the administration wants to know Mandela's view on subsequent steps in the democratisation process.

"What happens after that?" he asked. "Who sits at table? What would be the format? What are his (Mandela's) constitutional ambitions? What are his economic models?"

Cohen said he disagreed with Mandela's statements of support for Cuban President Fidel Castro, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mandela has said the three support "our struggle to the hilt."

Mandela's observations on Qadhafi, Castro and Arafat would not be a central element in Monday's talks, Cohen said.

New Kuwaiti cabinet sworn in

KUWAIT (AP) — The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah swore in the new cabinet led by his heir apparent Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and urged "constructive cooperation" with the newly-established transitional legislature.

"The emir stressed the importance of establishing constructive and positive cooperation with the national council," said the minister of state for cabinet affairs Abdul Rahman Al Awadi after the cabinet's inaugural session.

Sheikh Jaber was expected to appoint 25 members of the 75-member national council later this week. The 50 other members were elected on June 10 despite opposition from former members of parliament who decried the body as unconstitutional.

The opposition has been insisting on the return of the fully-elected 50-member parliament that was dissolved in 1986 because of acrimonious criticism of

the government.

Similar circumstances led to the suspension of the parliament between 1976 and 1980. The emir has entrusted the transitional council with setting controls to prevent such bitter power struggles in the future.

Local press reports said the consultations were going on to choose the appointed members who would include a number of outgoing ministers. The reports predicted the national council would hold its first session next Saturday. By the emir's decree it should meet within a month after the elections.

Sheikh Saad formed his 23-member cabinet Wednesday, the previous one having resigned af-

ter the elections. It is an established tradition in Kuwait that the crown prince retain the premiership.

Eleven new ministers entered the cabinet. Seven, including the ministers of foreign affairs, defence and interior, who are traditional members of the ruling Al Sabah family, retained their portfolios.

The key change was the switch of the oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah to the Finance Ministry. He was replaced by Rashid Salim Al Ameer, a U.S.-educated professor of chemical engineering at the faculty of engineering, Kuwait University.

Officials were at pains to emphasise that shifting Sheikh Ali to the Finance Ministry "does not involve any change in the country's oil policy, which is usually decided by the Higher Petroleum Council, chaired by the crown prince and prime minister."

Kuwait is a prominent member of the 13-nation cartel, the Organisation of Petroleum Export Countries (OPEC).

"Kuwait will continue to adhere to the OPEC agreements on oil prices and output quotas and will go ahead with implementing of a \$2-billion petrochemical complex" approved a month ago by the cabinet at the advice of Sheikh Ali, said one of the officials.

The officials, who requested anonymity, noted that Sheikh Ali was the architect of a series of foreign takeovers latest of which was the Mobil Italiana downstream operations.

His shifting to the Finance Ministry, which is in charge of foreign investments amounting to \$100 billion, heralds closer cooperation between investments of the Finance Ministry and the Kuwait Petroleum Corp. and consequently a more coherent foreign investment policy, they added.

U.S. panel suggests tying aid to Mideast peace

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The House of Representatives' Committee on Appropriations has approved a compromise foreign aid bill that would place a ceiling on U.S. aid to Israel, Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza, and Cyprus, and recommends among other things, making aid to the Middle East contingent on progress towards peace in that region.

The measure, approved by a voice vote June 21, also would cut U.S. military assistance programmes and increase economic assistance for sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe as well as funding for U.S. economic and development programmes related to export promotion, child survival, the environment, refugees and population planning.

The bill, which proposes \$15,770 million in U.S. foreign assistance for fiscal year 1991, would place a ceiling on aid to Israel for fiscal year 1991 at \$1,200 million, the same as in 1990.

For the first time, the committee approved a "five-year agenda" aimed at helping the administration develop long-term foreign policy objectives. Among other things, it calls for less congressional "earmarking" of funds for specific countries; stipulating that no country, such as Israel, should consider itself to be automatically entitled to U.S. economic and military assistance year after year; and making continued U.S. aid to the Near East contingent on establishment of a lasting and just peace in that region.

The plan also recommends ending U.S. payments for overseas military bases; limiting population growth in those nations where it outstrips economic growth; rethinking the current U.S. international debt strategy; and devoting greater attention to Africa, which includes most of the world's poorest nations.

The committee approved \$800 million in development assistance for sub-Saharan Africa, an increase of 228 million over the fiscal year 1990 level and \$239.5 million above the president's request.

Bush administration officials succeeded in having the committee raise the ceilings it previously had set on military aid to Greece, Turkey and Portugal, as well as in persuading the committee to restore \$50 million of the funds the president requested for the World Bank. However, Republican members warned that Bush might still veto the measure unless restrictions are removed on requested aid to El Salvador.

"We need to remain steadfast in our traditional assistance to Egypt and Israel," a senior Bush administration official told a Senate panel on June 22.

Testifying before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Foreign Operations, Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs Reginald Bartholomew said that the administration is once again requesting \$5,100 million in military and economic assistance for those two countries.

"That amount represents 61 per cent of our total security assistance request," he said. "These funds meet military modernisation requirements and contribute to economic stability and other development objectives."

Abbas ready to accept Arafat disciplinary action

BAGHDAD (AP) — Palestinian leader Mohammad Abbas said he and his tiny faction are open to investigation by Yasser Arafat over the May 30 raid against the Israeli coast and promised to accept any disciplinary action by the PLO chairman.

Abbas known by his nom de guerre Abu Abbas said in a statement distributed to foreign agencies in Baghdad that he has offered a complete file of the attack operation to Arafat to prove that the raid was aimed at military targets and not civilian ones.

"I gave the brother commander general a complete dossier of the operation with full data with full details and authorised him to take any measure he sees as

necessary to protect the national achievements of our people," he said.

The United States suspended its dialogue with the PLO tying resumption to the Palestinian organisation's taking disciplinary action against Abbas for the raid which the United States called a terrorist act.

In his statement, Abbas, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front which claimed responsibility for the attack, said his group will continue armed struggle against the Jewish state despite the U.S. decision.

"I hereby declare that we are insisting on confronting the Zionist enemy and fighting for the freedom of our people," he said. "Nothing will stop us but martyr-

dom or freedom," he said. Abbas reiterated his earlier claims that the attack was aimed at military targets inside Israel and no civilian target was to be attacked by the 16 commandos who carried out the sea borne operation.

Abbas also accused the Bush administration of using the raid as a pretext to cut off the 18 month dialogue with the PLO and humiliate the organisation and its leaders.

"The American administration is trying to use the operation as a pretext to humiliate our people, blackmail the PLO and force the organisation and its leader, brother commander general, to kneel down," Abbas said.

Arens: Peace depends on Arab states

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's Defence Minister Moshe Arens said that a peace agreement with the Palestinians would depend on "normalisation" of relations with neighbouring Arab states.

"It is clear to Israel and I hope also to the U.S. that the peace process obligates not only advancing toward an agreement with the Palestinians but advancing toward normalisation of relations between Israel and Arab states," Arens said in an interview on Israel television.

"I need to stress that these two things must go hand-in-hand," Arens added.

Arens was responding to the preceding television interview with former U.S. ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis.

Lewis, ambassador from 1977 to 1985, warned that with the lack of a viable peace process Middle East tensions could easily escalate into violence. He said the U.S. administration was frustrated with Israel's rejection of the Baker plan originally initiated by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Shamir's plan outlined Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo leading to elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Secretary of State James Baker III wanted to include Palestinians with Jerusalem links or those deported by Israel as a compromise with PLO demands for having diaspora Palestinians participate in the Cairo talks. But Shamir said this amounted to indirect PLO control."

"There is an enormous feeling I think, in the administration now, that it is up to Israel to come up with some alternative path toward peace, having blocked the one which he had worked on with them for so many months," Lewis said.

"I really feel that it is very important that none underestimate the potential for escalating, let's call it crisis, between our two governments," Lewis added.

Arens, however, denied that relations with Washington were deteriorating, pointing to the U.S. suspension of talks with the PLO as proof that the two governments were as friendly as ever.

"I think that the relations are strong and not a crisis," Arens said. "One of the problems has been taken away."

Arens, former foreign minister, has already answered the U.S. demand for alternative

peace initiatives by seeking meetings with influential Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Arens' spokesman Dan Nave said the goal of such talks was making progress towards carrying out Israel's proposal to hold elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

His efforts, so far, seem futile. Jamil Tarifi, a Palestinian lawyer who met with Shamir in July 1989, said he would not agree to such a meeting today.

"I'm especially not going to meet him now because he's talking about creating a local leadership. We have only one leadership," he said, referring to the PLO.

Tarifi added that Shamir's desire to find non-PLO Palestinians was "wishful thinking."

Meanwhile, Lewis warns that something needs to be done quickly, at large that really just don't understand what's happening out here and can't grasp it. They're susceptible to encouraging a crisis atmosphere to develop between these two governments unless some very wise and creative acts are taken to turn the train in another direction," Lewis said.

Hrawi, Hoss begin tour of Arab states

KUWAIT (AP) — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi Saturday began a tour of oil-rich Arab countries here as an Arab League committee appealed for world contributions to a \$2-billion reconstruction fund for his war-ravaged nation.

The leaders of the Arab League Committee on Lebanon, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, King Hassan II of Morocco and President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria, issued a statement setting up the "International Fund for Lebanon" with a \$2-billion target.

They said the by-laws of the fund, which appeared to be an emulation of the U.S.-led Marshall Plan that was devised for post-war Western Europe, would be sent to Arab and non-Arab countries and international institutions.

The fund's steering committee will hold its founding meeting in Saudi Arabia on Sept. 10 and 11, the statement said.

According to a separate statement by the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and

Algeria, Pope Paul II has given his blessing to the plan and Italy has pledged to seek backing within the 12-member European Community which it will lead as of July.

The three foreign ministers were in La Baule, France, for consultations on the Lebanese situation with French President Francois Mitterrand following talks in the Vatican and Rome. Mitterrand was in La Baule leading a Franco-African summit.

Both statements stressed the need to wrench Lebanon from the "tragic situation of indescribable ruin and destruction... with vital and basic utilities out of order and without which a life of dignity for the nation cannot be achieved."

The fund plan was approved by the emergency pan-Arab summit conference hosted by Iraq in May.

An Arab summit conference allocated \$2 billion for Lebanon's reconstruction in 1979, but only \$470 million were eventually paid.

Arab governments had attributed their reluctance to give to the continuing violence in Lebanon.

The new fund was to go along with a peace plan which was worked out by Lebanese legislators under Arab League auspices in the Saudi resort of Taif last October.

Hrawi, a Maronite Catholic, and Prime Minister Salim Hoss, a Sunni Muslim, besides cash are seeking renewed backing for the Taif accord.

Hrawi, flanked by Hoss, was received by Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah whose country has promised to send aid to help restore normalcy to Lebanon after 15 years of civil war.

The Lebanese leaders were to move to Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain after Kuwait.

Hrawi was elected president on Nov. 24 in line with the Taif pact which called for the equal distribution of power between Muslims and Christians instead of the current Christian domination of political power.

The peace plan has not been put into effect, mainly because rebel Christian Gen. Michel Aoun rejected it along with Hrawi's election as president.

Aoun's rival for power among Christians in divided Lebanon, Samir Geagea of the Lebanese Forces militia, has cautiously welcomed the Taif pact and recognised Hrawi as head of state.

Meanwhile, Aoun's troops and Geagea's militiamen skirmished with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns in east Beirut overnight. Police said Saturday one person was wounded.

Like Hrawi, Aoun and Geagea are Maronites, the largest Christian community which has dominated Lebanon since independence from France in 1943.

The inconclusive intra-Christian power struggle has killed 1,044 people and wounded 2,790 since it broke out on Jan. 30 for mastery of the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave northeast of Beirut.

Mecca ready to receive pilgrims

MECCA (AP) — The governor of Mecca, Prince Majed Ibn Abdul Aziz, Saturday washed and draped the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, as the annual Muslim pilgrimage season entered its final 10 days.

The traditional ceremony was conducted by Majed on behalf of his brother King Fahd.

It was attended by members of the Arab and diplomatic corps and heads of the pilgrimage delegations already in the kingdom.

The Kaaba is a square stone structure in the courtyard of the Grand Mosque at Mecca. In its wall is embedded a piece of black meteorite. The structure, according to Islamic tradition was built

by the Prophet Abraham in pre-Islamic days.

More than half a million Muslims have already arrived and thousands more are converging on Mecca by land, sea and air in preparation for the July 1 culmination of the pilgrimage on Mount Arafat.

The following dawn, the pilgrims and Muslims around the world slaughter sheep to commemorate the sacrifice of Prophet Abraham, marking the start of the Eid Al Adha, or feast of sacrifice.

The date for culmination of the pilgrimage was July 2 by the Islamic calendar. But on Saturday, the kingdom's Supreme Islamic Judiciary Council announced that the crescent for the new month had been sighted the previous night and the month for Zuhl-Hijja would start a day earlier.

The Kaaba was washed with perfumed water and dressed up with its new cover, known as Kiswa, brought late last week from a special factory and handed over to the guardian of the sacred house, Sheikh Assem Abdullah Al Shibi.

In the days of the Prophet Mohammed, the Al Shibi clan were given the key to the Kaaba and made its guardians.

Libya expects Israeli attack

CAIRO (R) — The Libyan News Agency (JANA) said Saturday Tripoli expected Israel to attack it within 48 hours, a charge described as nonsense by the Jewish state.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported JANA quoting Libyan security sources as saying that "Israelis are planning an attack against Libya over the next 48 hours."

In Israeli, government spokesman Yossi Olmert told Reuters Saturday: "It's absolute nonsense. It is a continuation of the Libyan warmongering and has no foundation whatsoever."

MENA, reporting in a brief dispatch from Tripoli, quoted the Libyan sources as saying the plan had been uncovered and warned that if the attack occurred "its perpetrators would pay a high price for it."

JANA has said several times this week that Israel was planning to attack Libya.

The Israeli army has said a May 30 two-pronged attack on crowded beaches near Tel Aviv by sea-borne Palestinian guerrillas was launched from the Libyan port of Benghazi.

Libya denied any involvement in the operation.

Iranian agents kill Rajavi — report

BERN, Switzerland (AP) — Swiss police have said they have evidence that Iranian agents were involved in the assassination last April of Dr. Kazem Rajavi, a prominent Iranian oppositionist who had obtained political asylum in Switzerland.

Rajavi, of the Iraq-based Mujahadeen Khalq resistance movement and a brother of its leader, was killed instantly by a burst of submachine gun when his car was blocked by another near his house outside Geneva on April 24.

A police communiqué said the results obtained so far in the

investigation "allow to state that one or several official Iranian services are directly involved in the assassination."

The acting head of the Iranian embassy in Bern, Agharazi Darmani, was summoned to the Swiss Foreign Ministry Friday afternoon to be told of official "strong concern."

A Foreign Ministry statement said the head of the ministry's Political Department, Pierre-Yves Simonin told the Iranian diplomat that the government would examine "the accusations against certain official Iranian services and will, if necessary,

take the measures which are required in such cases."

The police communiqué said the probe also produced evidence of a "close connection" with several other slayings in Europe in recent years, including one of an Iranian defector in Geneva in August 1987.

The communiqué, signed by examining magistrate Roger Chatelein of Lausanne, said a total of 13 people were involved in what it termed a "minutely prepared execution." All were travelling with Iranian services passports, marked "on mission," according to the communiqué.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
16:00 Children programme
17:10 Football
18:00 World Cup: Brazil vs. Argentina
19:30 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:40 Varieties programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Tel Tel Tel
18:15 L'école de la nuit
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Hey Dad
21:00 Global Report
21:45 News in English
22:00 World Cup: West Germany vs. The Netherlands

PRAYER TIMES

05:51 Fajr
06:26 Sunrise
12:35 Dhuhr
16:18 Asr
19:49 Maghreb
21:25 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625451
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 711321
Argentinean Catholic Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
American International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Slight drop in temperatures is expected and winds will be northwesterly moderate freshening at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Hafez Khawaja 791954
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa 731429
Dr. Sami Khouri 681373
Dr. Muntaser Al Qutami 772328
First pharmacy 622320
Fendous pharmacy 778336
Al Salem pharmacy 637035
Nairook pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649495
Stamboul pharmacy 657660

NIGHT DUTY

BRID:
Dr. Ahmad Abu Bakr (-)
Al Sharaf pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Abdul Karim Al Shakhayreh (-)
Khafid pharmacy 985417

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 893390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 663030
Price Complaints 661776
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints (directly assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 910320
Central Amman Telephone 621301
Abdullah Telephone 621301
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815613
Electric Power Company 636361
RJ Flight Information 06-52200
RJ Flight Info. Airport 06-52200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/322
Khaldil Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malham, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 6641714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 945845
Al-Mushter Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdull. 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdull. 6641646
Islamic, Al-Muhajir 777101/3
Al-Samir, J. Amman 775111/2
Army, Marfa 891817/5
Queen Alia Hospital 662240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Bo San Hospital (09)98732
BRID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)272555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Bo Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)914111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)52200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(Terminal 1)

16:00 Jeddah (RJ)
16:30 Kuwait (RJ)
16:30 Cairo (RJ)
16:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
16:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:55 Cairo (RJ)
16:55 Istanbul (RJ)
17:00 Kuwait (add.) (RJ)
17:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:45 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:55 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:00 London (RJ)
19:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
19:30 Athens (RJ)
20:35 Munich (RJ)
20:30 Sana (add.) (RJ)
21:00 Jeddah (add.) (RJ)
21:30 Frankfurt, Aqaba (add.) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:25 Larnaca (CY)
11:00 Kuwait (SV)
11:00 Jeddah (CV)
13:20 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(Terminal 1)

12:00 Jeddah, Sana (add.) (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
12:30 Tunis, Comblanca (RJ)
12:40 London (RJ)
12:45 Istanbul (RJ)
17:15 Jeddah (add.) (RJ)
17:30 Athens (RJ)
18:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
18:30 Larnaca (RJ)
18:40 Kuwait (RJ)
18:45 Riyadh (RJ)
19:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
19:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
20:45 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
21:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
22:30 Jeddah, Sana (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

16:15 Larnaca (CY)
16:25 Rome (AZ)
17:35 Kuwait (KU)
17:40 Jeddah (CV)
18:00 Cairo (MS)
18:30 Tripoli (LA)
19:30 Dubai (EK)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Sds per kg

Apple 700/600
Apricot 600/550
Banana 500/450
Banana (Malaysian) 450/400
Beet 320/250
Cabbage 120/80
Carrot 200/150
Cauliflower 180/120
Corn 900/750
Cucumber (large) 100/75
Cucumber (small) 200/150
Dates 400/300
Eggplant 800/500
Garlic 1100/900
Grape 440/380
Lemon 400/300
Mallow 400/300
Marrow (large) 800/500
Marrow (small) 300/250
Onion (dry) 180/140
Orange 380/300
Peas 700/500
Pepper (hot) 400/300
Potato 300/250
Radish 120/80
Sage 300/250
Sweet melon 220/180
Tomato 120/80
Watermelon 120/80

Symposium to tackle Jewish immigration and settlements

AMMAN (J.T.) — The question of Jewish immigration to Palestine is the theme of a three-day symposium opening at the Royal Cultural Centre Sunday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The Jordanian Writers Federation (JWF) is organising the meeting which will tackle 55 research papers from nine Arab countries, in addition to the occupied West Bank, covering different aspects of Jewish immigration and Zionist plans to settle in occupied Arab areas.

Federation President Abdul Rahim Omar said that the role of

ACC echelon to hold meetings in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministers of housing, economy, trade, information and industry as well as senior officials in charge of central banks will hold a series of meetings in Amman next month to find ways for the implementation of ACC agreements in their respective fields.

ACC Secretary-General Hilmi Nammur said that the Amman-based ACC secretariat is now preparing an agenda for the ACC's higher ministerial council meeting which is scheduled for September 8.

Conference to evaluate poultry, egg industry in the Arab World

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first pan-Arab conference on poultry and egg production and a specialised exhibition will be held in Amman next month under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein and with the participation of delegates from Arab as well as foreign countries.

The conference is to be held between July 16-19, according to the Arab Federation for Food Industries (AFFI) which is organising the conference in cooperation with the ministries of agriculture and supply, and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO).

The conference aims at evaluating the poultry and egg industry in the Arab World, the needs

for its products and the future until the year 2005. It aims at evaluating the present and future production capacities, the quality control standards, the inter-Arab cooperation for self-sufficiency and the means to reach this end, according to the organisers in a statement here Saturday.

It said that the poultry and egg production is one of the most important food sectors in the Arab World, giving relatively cheap protein food needed by citizens of the Arab countries.

The statement said that several working papers and studies will be reviewed at the conference during which an exhibition of poultry and egg production will be organised.

Jordanian, Dutch universities sign cooperation accords

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan and Utrecht University in the Netherlands Saturday signed an agreement on cooperation in physics, and Arab and Islamic studies.

University of Jordan President Mahmoud Al Samra, who signed the agreement, said in a statement that the two sides will exchange visits by university teachers and students, conduct joint scientific research work, exchange manuscripts, publications and other documents.

"Utrecht University students will be coming here for Islamic and Arabic language studies and Jordanian students will study Persian and Turkish languages in Holland in accordance with the terms of the agreement," Samra said.

In the northern city of Irbid another agreement was signed between Yarmouk University and Leiden University of the Netherlands under which the two sides will exchange research work, visit by teachers and students and encourage joint cultural work.

Conference to discuss environment, pollution

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in an international conference to open in London Monday on ways to provide protection to the ozone layer.

Ministers in charge of the environment in various countries have been invited to take part in the meetings, organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, who will attend the conference, said on the eve of his departure for London that the delegates will discuss contributions of various participating countries in protecting the environment in general and the ozone layer in particular.

"The question of promoting international cooperation to provide such protection will be examined and the industrial nations will be requested to take drastic measures to reduce pollution and to control poisonous gases emitted into the atmosphere," the minister said.

He said that the 56 participating countries are expected to sign a protocol on the protection of the environment, pledging efforts to control environmental pollution by the year 2000.

Jordan is a signatory of an international agreement called "the international agreement on the trans-boundary movement of

Human rights organisation opens office in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday welcomed a decision by the Arab Human Rights Organisation to open an office in Amman and wished the organisation success in its endeavours.

It is hoped that the organisation will follow a clear course of action based on Arab and Islamic culture," Prince Hassan said at a meeting with members of the organisation's board of trustees at his office.

The Prince said that agreement on all aspects related to human rights should be reached in line with Arab and Islamic culture without copying from other sources because the local environment should be taken into consideration in all matters related to human rights.

Human rights, he added, should be linked to democracy, socio-economic development and other humanitarian causes.

Human rights should cover the interests of workers from the developing nations employed in the industrial countries," the Prince added.

Head of delegation Adib Al Jabri thanked the Prince for his concern over humanitarian issues.

The board met the Prince soon after the official inauguration of the Human Rights Organisation's office in Amman in the presence of Jordanian members of the organisation and some officials.

The board members had concluded a two-day meeting here and issued a statement reviewing the human rights situation in the Arab World, they pointing out in particular certain violations per-

peting to the democratisation process and drawing attention to "dangers posed to pluralism and those inherent in Jewish settlement in Palestine."

The statement outlined Israel's inhuman practices and human rights violations in occupied Palestine and discrimination against Arab communities in Western Europe.

The board members declared their organisation's support for basic rights and pluralism for all citizens in the Arab World.

The statement voiced satisfaction with the outcome of the democratic process in Algeria and the country's respect of basic human rights and expressed support for the democratic experiments in Jordan and Yemen.

The statement voiced the organisation's total and strong condemnation of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, Israel's terrorist actions in occupied Palestine, its demolishing of homes, torture of Arab citizens, mass killing of Palestinian women and children, and the closure of educational institutions.

Furthermore, the statement condemned human rights violations in Arab countries, citing the disappearance of citizens, acts of torture, arbitrary arrests, and imprisonment without trial.

It said that these actions, along with discrimination on the basis of sect, tribe and origin and bans imposed on basic human rights are all violations of basic rights of people.

The statement voiced the organisation's call on Arab governments to immediately release all

persons detained for their beliefs, ideologies and political orientations and to respect all international principles and conventions pertaining to human rights.

At the inauguration ceremony the organisation's Chairman Al Rashdan said that the organisation aims at helping provide protection to human rights and ensuring proper conditions for their free exercise.

The organisation's Secretary-General Mohammad Faeg stressed the importance of providing a suitable atmosphere for the freedom of the press. The organisation, he said, will defend journalists' freedoms as part of Arab human rights everywhere.

Before the opening ceremony the organisation's President Adib Al Jabri held a press conference in which he expressed delight for opening the Amman office, and hope that more offices will be opened throughout the Arab World.

He said that the organisation is a totally independent non-governmental organisation drawing its funds from members subscription fees.

Jabri reviewed the organisation's activities over the past seven years and its establishment of a specialised institute. "Our success is attributed to a great measure of awareness on the part of Arab governments and people," he said.

He hailed the democratisation process in the Kingdom and urged Jordanians to join the organisation.

Jordanian drowns in the U.S.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of a Jordanian man who drowned in a lake in east-central Kansas will be flown to Amman Sunday and buried Monday, according to family sources here Saturday.

The man, identified as Ibrahim Hussein Al Lawzi, was on a visit to his son in Kansas when the incident took place, according to the sources in a telephone conversation with the Jordan Times.

The 55-year-old Ibrahim Al Lawzi was reported to have drowned while trying to retrieve his hat which fell overboard while he was standing in a boat cruising the lake.

His son, Zaid Al Lawzi, 27, was with his father in the boat

when the 55-year-old man tried to recover the hat and fell overboard, according to local sheriff Ray Dunnaway.

"They were just cruising along and the victim was standing in the front of the boat using binoculars," the sheriff said. "His hat blew off and when he reached down to pick it up he went over," the sheriff added.

He said that the son, who was steering the boat, jumped in trying to rescue his father and then was pulled to safety.

Dunnaway said neither the father nor the son could swim and they were not wearing life jackets.

Meeting on children care opens in Tunis

TUNIS (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in a pan-Arab meeting which opened here today to prepare an Arab document on children care to be submitted to Arab heads of state for approval prior to its presentation to the world summit for children due to be held in New York in September.

Ministry of Social Development's Secretary-General Mohammad Esqour is attending the two-day meeting along with officials including ministers responsible for social development in the Arab World, Arab League officials and the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO).

Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHIF) Director-General Inam Al Mufri is also taking part in the meeting which is organised by the Arab League headquarters here.

Speakers at the opening session included Arab League officials and the regional director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

They all called for streamlining Arab countries policies on children care through bilateral and regional cooperation.

According to Mufri, the Arab document to be submitted to the September conference would focus attention on the current situation in the occupied Arab territories and the adverse effects of Israel's practices on Palestinian children.

She said the document will also urge world governments to pool their efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East region.

House amends law on Higher Court of Justice

By Saad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday endorsed a draft law which provides the higher court of justice with super-judicial jurisdiction over government decisions related to the transfer, retirement, dismissals and pension of civil servants.

Thirty-four of the 65 deputies at the session, which was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Cabinet ministers, voted in favour of the draft law as presented by the House's legal committee.

The passage followed a three-hour heated debate as many deputies argued the viability of the draft law.

"The law would inevitably tarnish the Kingdom's democratisation process and cripple

the authorities of public figure," charged Deputy Ali Faqir, who is also minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

Deputy Issa Rimouni echoed Faqir's argument and added that "public figures are supposed to exercise the highest standard of honesty and straightforwardness and their verdicts should not be questioned before a court of law."

Badran stressed that the new law would "lead to chaos in the administrative level and practices."

"If this law is approved the powers of the executive authorities would be encroached upon and even minor administrative changes would be legally questioned," he told the session before the vote was taken.

Countering Badran's argument, Deputy Hussein Mjalli, the Legal Committee's chairman, said the amendment was bound to "further improve the administrative process, protect the civil servants and ensure that the government's decision are on the right direction."

"It is a constitutional right of every citizen to resort to the law. Furthermore, no administrative verdict should be immune against appeal," Mjalli argued.

He said the law would also "protect the government and augment its decisions should the court deem them fit."

"People would also find legal and legitimate avenues to express their complaints which would otherwise be conveyed through illegal means," he added.

Syrian pianists to perform in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation's National Music Conservatory presents piano solo and duets by Suzan Al Sabouni, Dr. Christina Zahida Al-Sabouni and Maha Kubeimi from Syria.

The programme includes pieces by Beethoven, Albeniz, Haydn, Debussy.

The capital will take place in the main hall of the National Music Conservatory in Jabal Amman (behind the Kuwaiti embassy) at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, 24 June 1990.

Dr. Christina Zahida Al-Sabouni, 26, got her first piano instructions from her mother and later on from well known Russian professor at the Music Conservatory in Damascus.

Suzan Al-Sabouni, Christina Al Sabouni's mother, has been a piano teacher for 26 years. Her own mother is presently guest professor at the Conservatory of Music in Helsinki, Finland.

Maha Kubeimi, student of Suzan Al-Sabouni, is the daughter of the ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Damascus.

Iran aid

(Continued from page 1)

Iran," Mazri told the Jordan Times. "But the war (the Iran-Iraq) was waged against Iraq prompted Jordan to support Iraq."

In view of the disastrous quake, "it is only natural that Jordan extends help to Iran," he said pointing out that Iraq itself had offered sympathies and assistance to Iran.

"I hope the Iranians get the right message from the Iraqi and Jordanian positions," the Amman deputy added.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd sent condolences to Iran Saturday.

"We are deeply touched by the tragic earthquake that hit Iran," King Fahd said in the rare cable to Rafsanjani.

"On behalf of the people and government of Saudi Arabia, we extend our heartfelt condolences to you, the families of victims and to the Iranian Muslim people," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted the cable as saying.

Zarqa embarks on cleanliness campaign

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ZARQA — Citizens of this city, 25 kilometres northwest of Amman, Saturday started a campaign to clean and beautify their town, Mayor Yasser Al Omari said.

The one-week campaign, Omari said, aims at clearing streets and alleys of stones, earth and garbage and at fighting insects.

Municipality workers, students and volunteers are taking part in the campaign, the mayor said in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times.

He said that the municipality had last week distributed 25,000 leaflets urging citizens to take part in the campaign. "We asked people not to throw the leaflet in the street after they read it and they did not," Omari said. "This

is a very encouraging sign of people's awareness and their enthusiasm to clean and tidy their town."

Omari added that the Greater Amman Municipality had contributed spraying equipment and the army is contributing trucks to remove the city's refuse during the campaign.

Zarqa, a city of 500,000 inhabitants of mainly army personnel and workers, has a chronic problem of congestion and uncleanness. The city's revenues are also limited.

Last month the city elected its first municipal council in 13 years. The Islamist bloc, backed by the Muslim Brotherhood won nine out of the council's ten seats.

Omari disclosed that the Zarqa municipal council is going to form neighbourhood councils for its eight districts to assist municipality officials in their task of running the districts.

Honorary consulates approved

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian government approved the opening of honorary consulates in

Amman for Peru, Iceland and Wales.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arab press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Sharran, Mohammad Assad and Hani Khazneh at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "La revolution: 200 ans apres" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Ottoman textiles at Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of orientalist paintings by two German orientalist artists at the Goethe Institute — open 9-12 a.m. and 4-6 p.m.
- ★ Art exhibition by Mohammad Al Ameri at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Hinda Qasem in the Petra Bank Hall (opens 6:30 p.m.).
- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-printed fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Pilgrims reported in good condition

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Saturday reported that all Muslim pilgrims in Mecca and Medina were in good condition and were put up at lodgings rented for them by the ministry. Minister of Awqaf Ali Faqir said that the Jordanian mission accompanying the pilgrims did not report any incident involving any of the pilgrims nor any road accidents. He said that arrangements are being made to facilitate the pilgrims easy transportation from and to the holy shrines for religious rites. The climax of the religious ceremonies is expected on Sunday July 1, the eve of the Eid Al Adha (feast of sacrifice) which culminates this year's pilgrimage.

CAEU committee discusses cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary-General of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Hassan Ibrahim Saturday said the higher coordination committee which concluded its meetings in Tunisia Thursday has established strong grounds for coordination among Arab institutions. He said upon arriving in Amman the topics which were discussed by the committee in its two-day meetings were of great importance to the Arab Nation at this stage. The committee also discussed the withdrawal of some members from pan-Arab organisations, according to Ibrahim.

Jordan Times

Tel: 667171

Jordan reopens embassy in Libya

TRIPOLI (J.T.) — The Jordanian flag was raised Saturday on the Jordanian embassy in Tripoli, Libya, marking the official restoration of Jordanian-Libyan diplomatic relations.

The ceremony was attended by Libyan government officials, Jordanian parliamentary members now on a visit to Libya and members of the Jordanian community in Tripoli.

Last week the government nominated Hashem Al Mubeissen to serve as Jordan's ambassador to Libya following a decision in 1987 to restore diplomatic ties severed since 1984, following the burning down of the Jordanian embassy in Tripoli.

Mubeissen had visited Tripoli in April to inspect the embassy building repaired at Libya's expense after the two countries agreed to improve ties.

Jordan announced it was restoring relations with Libya ahead of the Arab League summit in Amman in Nov. 1987.



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★ Istanbul every Friday.

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Jordan Times

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Editorial and advertising offices:
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Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Goodwill opens the door wider

IT IS only unfortunate that it took a devastating earthquake in Iran to bring about the first non-belligerent contacts between the leaders of Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia and the Iranian leadership in years. However, the Arab concern over the welfare of the Iranian people is a strong indication that the animosity between the two peoples is only a passing phenomenon and a legacy of colonial plotting and conspiracy. Notwithstanding the historical schism between Muslim Sunnis and Shi'ites, there is a great deal of common interest between Arabs and Iranians. Both nations share the same religion and culture, face the same enemies and the same political, social and economic problems.

The gestures of goodwill from His Majesty King Hussein, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, as reflected in their offers of aid to Iran's earthquake victims and the Iranian leadership's positive response, are indications of a warming of relations after many years of estrangement. If anything, such an upturn in relations should further be cemented and consolidated for the common cause and interest of both Iranians and Arabs.

President Saddam's earlier offer to open negotiations with President Hashemi Rafsanjani and Rafsanjani's show of willingness to talk should further be encouraged, enhanced and consolidated. Both countries should work for the establishment of peace and stability in the Gulf region and for neighbourly and brotherly relations.

The Muslim people in this part of the world would definitely like to see the Iranians and their Arab brothers reestablish normal ties based on mutual respect and interest. Now that other nations are opting for compromise, it befits the Muslim people to reach out to each other and build bridges of hope for future generations.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Saturday said that angry reactions to Washington's decision concerning the dialogue with the PLO and its continued support for Israel are not enough, and can by no means help the Palestinians regain their rights. We say frankly that we need a collective Arab strategy, joint action and brave stands in the face of the United States which is bent on stripping the Arab World from its power for the benefit of Israel, said the paper. Washington wants the Arabs to succumb to its own desires, and is determined to impose its hegemony on the Arab countries, the paper continued. It said, should the Arab states rise to the occasion and adopt in word and deed a collective strategy to regain their rights and safeguard their future generations, the seemingly terrible challenge they are facing now will end and they will be taking the initiative in all matters concerning their interests. It is unacceptable any more to see the Arabs weak and in disarray; and they should realise that the United States has no intention at all to bring about peace to their region by ending Israel's occupation of Palestine, the paper noted. It said that Washington's actions point to one clear target: to impose capitulation on the Arabs for the benefit of the U.S.-Israeli alliance and its own interests.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily says the United States had hoped through its ill-fated dialogue with the PLO to exercise a form of blackmail on the Palestinian leadership, and has seized the first opportunity to end the talks, once it found that its policy was futile, says a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. We will not shed tears over America's decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO, because this 18-month-long dialogue had proved futile and fruitless from the start and did not contribute anything to the peace process, says Mahmoud Al Kayed who is the newspaper's chief editor. Washington's decision to suspend the dialogue was only a way of reprisal against the moderate Arabs and Palestinians, and a reward for the Israeli extremist elements, the writer notes. Washington found in the abortive attack on Israel's shores an excuse to end the dialogue, but failed to see Israel's atrocities in the occupied Arab lands as acts of terrorism, the writer adds. He says that Washington's decision as declared by President Bush, and the United States constant hostile attitude towards the Arabs in general, can only emphasise to the Arab World that the United States is the Arab World's number one enemy, and that the Arabs ought to deal with this enemy with greater firmness and through taking action against Washington's interests, since words alone can never serve the Arab Nation's interests.

The earthquake that hit Iran and the thousands of victims resulting from it was a topic discussed by Al Dustour daily Saturday. The paper said that the tragedy of the Iranians moved all Arab and Muslim nations, prompting His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to send cables of sympathy and to offer help. The paper said regardless of the results of the eight-year-long war in the Gulf, the Muslim nations cannot help coming to the aid of one another in the event of natural disasters and in times of need. The offers that came from Jordan and Iraq prove that the Muslims "have one blood and one fate," and therefore, they ought to pool their resources and their efforts to protect themselves and safeguard their interests, the paper said. The disaster that befell the Iranians affected all Muslims; and Jordan and Iraq have set a good example of tolerance and affection characterising the Islamic faith, the paper added. It said what is needed from Muslims is a greater show of solidarity in the struggle to regain their lost holy shrines.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

The Soviet Union passes point of no return

AN INFORMAL Arab Soviet dialogue took place in Moscow between June 4 and 6, 1990. It was initiated by the Amman-based Arab Thought Forum and co-sponsored by the Egyptian and Soviet committees for solidarity with the Afro-Asian peoples. The dialogue was conducted at the level of intellectuals but was attended by high ranking officials in their personal capacities.

Five days in any country would not convert a stranger like myself into an expert in the affairs of that country. However, I came back with certain first hand information and impressions, which I am going to share with my readers. My first impression was that the Soviet Union has crossed the point of no return. Political democratisation and economic

restructuring have gained momentum of their own, irrespective of any change in persons. Any attempt to reverse the trend will mean a bloody uprising similar to that of Romania. The Communist Party's old guards have lost ground and are trying to secure places in the new emerging movement.

The Soviet Union will definitely remain a superpower, not only in military terms, which is no more the criteria to identify a superpower, but also because it occupies one sixth of the globe and includes some 300 million of relatively good standard of living, not too far behind the current Western standards. The Soviet Union is the largest producer of oil and gold on earth. Its vast agri-

cultural land and natural resources are comparable to those of the United States. The Soviet Union can become an economic giant under the right system and management.

The USSR will continue to be a major player in the international arena. It will continue to be concerned with the Middle East issues, because the Middle East is its southern flank, and it will continue to be a friend of the Arabs because such friendship was and will remain compatible with its own self interest, both economically and strategically. However, the Soviet support to the Arabs, politically and in the field of armaments, should not be taken for granted. It has to be earned and maintained through mutual interest.

In the past, Arabs dealt with the Soviet Union through its top man, who was the decision-maker, irrespective of what the Soviet people thought. Now the decision-making process in the Soviet Union has changed radically. The government position is not determined by the top leadership on ideological basis. It reflects the Soviet Public opinion and takes into account the pressures coming from America, Europe and of course the Arab World. As of now Arab contacts with the Soviet Union should not be confined to a regime-to-regime relationship, it should be based on people-to-people one. Arab-Soviet interaction should take place at the levels of intellectuals, professionals, unions, parties, par-

liaments, universities, journalists, workers, students, women etc.

On the Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine, the maximum we could extract were that emigrants will be given a Soviet passport valid for five years to enable them to return to their real homeland in Russia if they change their mind after arriving in Israel. Officials also told us that they were very much concerned about settlement of Soviet Jews on the occupied Arab territories, and unless Israel comes up with guarantees that such settlement will not take place, the USSR will have to reconsider its laws and regulations to restrict emigration but within human rights guide-lines.

Finally, I should say that the

economic situation in the Soviet Union is not as bad as one is led to believe by Western media. It is true that there is an economic crisis, but it is less severe than the world thinks, and much less than the Soviet themselves feel. Soviet citizens in the streets are well dressed, women are well groomed, shops have goods to sell, and queues are found only where heavily subsidised basic commodities are sold at nominal prices which tempt people to over buy.

In conclusion, I should point out the fact that the Soviet Union is now in a transitional period. Past methods are paralysed and new methods are not working yet. Once the Soviet Union completes the transition, it may achieve impressive successes.

Egypt's sectarian violence: more to come

By Paul Lalor

FOLLOWING recent sectarian strife in Egypt between Muslims and Copts, who make up from 6-20 per cent of the population, depending on whose figures you believe, a respected Egyptian analyst has warned that it might not be long before the conflict spreads from the deprived south of the country to Muhandisin and Zamalik, affluent areas of Cairo. Despite charges of exaggeration and scaremongering it is clear that many Egyptians agree with him, and they point to socio-economic, political and other trends which they fear are irreversible.

"The reason for the sectarian violence since the '70s, put very simply, is that the state and society, economically, socially and politically, are in a mess, and the government cannot provide an effective or creative response," says Sa'd Al Din Ibrahim, professor of sociology.

At the political level, leftist writer Mohammad Sid Ahmad believes that the disastrous defeat of June 1967 and Sadat's policies led to "the discrediting of politics." He argues that Egypt has been everything in a short period of time. "Once we were socialist and pro-Arab, then we were capitalist and pro-Israeli. This sort of situation, where everything that is presented as permanent turns out to be temporary, somehow discredits politics, and people cling to something more fundamental to assert their identity."

Coptic fears

The Camp David accords and Sadat's trip to Jerusalem not only accelerated this process, but also increased sectarian tension. Sadat seemed to be identifying himself with the "Judeo-Christian" world at the expense of Islam, and "this contributed to a degree of anti-Coptic feeling," following serious violence between Muslims

and Copts in the Zawiyat Al Hamra area of Cairo in 1981, one Muslim activist compared Coptic Pope Shenouda to Major Sa'd Haddad, Israel's Christian ally in south Lebanon, and accused him of trying to create a pretext for foreign intervention and even of aiming to set up a Christian state with Asyut as its capital. For their part, in the period after 1967, the Copts became more militant. They began to complain more bitterly about discrimination and to express their fears of "Muslim domination." Emigration increased and many of those who stayed behind spoke of the need for self assertion and self defence.

Meanwhile, there was a "quantum leap in the seriousness of the many dilemmas facing Egypt," particularly in recent years," as Ibrahim puts it. The country's national debt is currently about \$55 billion, or one and a half times the GNP. At least 40 per cent of Egyptians live below the poverty line and the annual population increase is around 1.5 million. Unemployment is above 20 per cent (25 per cent among graduates), and inflation is running at more than 25 per cent annually. Egypt also has a hard drugs problem of epidemic proportions. In 1985 official figures put the number of drug users at one million, though it is probably much higher. The hardest hit by these mounting difficulties are the unemployed, those on "starvation salaries", and above all, young people who comprise a staggering proportion of the population. In 1982, for example, it was estimated that 40 per cent of Egyptians were under 15.

Galal Amin, the left-wing economist, points also to the rate of social mobility in Egypt, which is higher than ever. The expansion of university education was faster in the 1970s than in the '60s, especially in the provinces, producing large numbers of unemployed and underemployed graduates. On top of this,

thousands of migrant workers, most of them peasants, are being sent back to Egypt from Iraq, with money to spend and raised expectations. Amin suggests that the power of these half educated and semi-literate groups is growing and that they are particularly open to Islamic "propaganda."

This leads Ibrahim to conclude that the Christians, like any minority, have become a target for rising hostility and frustration in a classic display of scapegoating. Most of the sectarian violence in recent history has either occurred in or involved people from the upper Egyptian governorates, who experienced the

how such people could have anything to offer that is imaginative, creative and effective.

Islamic resurgence

These developments and trends have been accompanied by an Islamic resurgence in Egypt over the past 20 years, encouraged by the policies of President Sadat. With the support of the conservative Arab oil state, he promoted the Islamic movement against the Nasserites and the Left. Mohammad Sid Ahmad calls this "a process of politics through religion, rather than politics through politics." The Sadat

government or private equivalent. This was matched by the increase in building mosques, many of which were not under government control. As one authority has shown, between 1970 and 1981 the number of independent mosques more than doubled. Of the total of 46,000 mosques in Egypt in 1981, a mere 6,000 were under the control of the ministry of religious endowments and these were maintained by only 3,000 officially recognised imams.

For many observers, Shaikh Mohammad Mitwalli Al Sharawi symbolises government policy. He is seen to represent the official point of view on television and for nearly 20 years he has been delivering simplistic, conservative interpretations of the Koran in colloquial Arabic. Philip Galab, editor of the left-wing newspaper Al Ahali, is certain that "Sharawi has been one of the main instigators of this sectarian strife, either consciously or unconsciously. He regularly stresses issues like Christians believe in three Gods rather than one, and emphasises the duty of Muslims not to submit to non-Muslims, matters which are not of real substance in Islam."

Against this background, Sa'd Al Din Ibrahim explains that the government has tried to engage in a policy of "one-upmanship" with the extremists by supporting moderate Islam, which has coloured the entire discourse in the country and sensitised people to think in religious terms. He claims "studies show that when the debate is in these terms, it is easy to turn moderates into extremists, either through the schools, television or radio." Galal Amin also blames the "microphone men", who blare out their message from the mosques to all parts of Cairo and Egypt, for encouraging Islamic extrem-

ism, antagonising the Copts and exacerbating their fears.

What of the future?

Many Egyptians accuse the government of resorting to cosmetic measures, to embrace on television and Christian-Muslim meeting which are not taken seriously. On the other hand, while there is some satisfaction at the decisive line taken recently at Al Kahk, there is a feeling that security measures on their own will not solve the problem. There is no shortage of long and short term suggestions about how to proceed. One is that the system should be taken on the economic front to give Egyptians at least some hope for the future. Another is that teachers, prayer leaders and officials who stir up sectarian violence should be dismissed.

However, although it is clear that the vast majority of Muslims and Christians are horrified by the surge in sectarian violence, there is no real hope that moderate Islam will bargain away the gains it has already made and there are few signs that the government is willing or able to secularise the system. Recent sharp rises in the price of energy and basic food commodities as a result of IMF pressure have increased pessimism and encouraged conspiracy theorists and those who feel that the West does not care whether Egypt stands or falls.

Al Ahali recently reported that school-children in Fayyum are playing "Copts and Muslims" instead of "cops and robbers". In this climate, many Egyptians expect a continued deterioration in the socio-economic and political arenas, increasing Islamic activism, and worsening sectarian violence in the future - Middle East International, London.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



LETTERS

Double standards

To the Editor:

"WESTERN governments and international human rights organisations condemned the violence," is a line that appeared in an Associated Press report about recent riots in Romania.

One of those "Western" governments "deploring" the situation in Romania seems to have forgotten the way it handled its own people's riots when they demonstrated against another kind of tax levied on them namely, the "poll tax".

Television coverage and first-hand sources told tales of horror, blood, and mounted police indiscriminately beating people. Most probably they had no "human rights" there and then.

Romanian youth, for the majority of whom capitalism apparently equals blue jeans, pop music, foreign cigarettes and dollars — above everything else — seemed to have been blinded by promises coming from expatriates (the word should mean a lot, especially when one "patriot" has lived for the last 50 years abroad and was found with equipment for forging dollars — to pay other "patriots" off — in his Romanian residence), promises solidly supported by "Kent" and whisky (the best of capitalism for poor souls underfed during the reign of communist "emperor" Ceausescu).

So they gathered in Bucharest's University Square to protest. Other than "Jose Ilescu" (down with Ilescu!) they apparently did not know why they were there or what they wanted. Democracy? One wonders if they still remember the meaning of the word. And if they do, at least ethymologically, then they should (at least for the next two years, the term of Ilescu's presidency) obey the will of the demos — who elected Ilescu with an overwhelming majority and, in the worst of cases — give the man a chance.

Romania is better off than the other East bloc countries. At least it has no debts to pay. It has a good chance to ensure a better future. But work was not on the list of University Square people. And without work, in capitalism, they would die of hunger; and in Ilescu's "democracy," after five weeks of easy living, they might end up behind bars. Who can blame whom? Maybe the key issue is work against a "paid-for-with-dollars-dollars" niente life. Even the Western cortocopia cannot last forever. And by then, the already shaky country would be in shambles. To whose advantage? Take a guess.

Viorica Pop,
Amman

Xenophobia in W. Europe creates a generation of underachievers

By Clare Pedrick

GENEVA — Problems of integration, schooling and unemployment faced by Europe's second generation of immigrants are all building up to what could prove to be an explosive situation for such countries as Britain, France and West Germany, sociologists warn.

Carlos Castro-Almeida, author of a report for the United Nations' International Labour Organisation (ILO), predicts dire social consequences if governments continue to neglect the needs of the children of foreign workers. There are now 7 million second-generation immigrants living in the 12 European Community (EC) countries, making up 10 per cent of the entire EC population under 20 years of age. In Belgium, the proportion of foreigners under age 25 is already approaching 50 per cent. In Sweden, not an EC member, the figure is 45 per cent and in France, 41.5 per cent. The young immigrant population is growing at the rate of 400,000 each year.

Most of the youths were born in their country of residence, the children of parents who immigrated to Western Europe during the 1960s, 1970s or early 1980s. Large numbers have severe problems adjusting to school and fitting into local communities. "These second-generation immigrants often end up being foreigners on two counts: in the country of residence and in their country of origin. That gives them a psychological disadvantage, which is reflected in everything they do," said Portuguese-born Castro-Almeida, who heads ILO's section on immigration problems in Europe and the Mediterranean.

"If nothing is done to help them, the situation could prove to be a time bomb because we are talking about so many young people. The danger is that as more and more of them are shifted out onto the sidelines of society they

become easy prey to crime and drugs."

Problems begin at school, where many non-Europeans face language and learning difficulties. More than 2.5 million of them attend special schools for troubled children who can't keep up. In France twice as many foreign as French children attend special schools. In Switzerland one in five children of Turkish immigrants attends a special school.

Statistics show that few second-generation immigrants go on to higher education. Many do not even complete secondary school: the majority become factory workers, labourers or food-service workers. In societies where jobs qualifications are becoming more and more sophisticated to keep up with modern technology, these unskilled workers are often

decision to change country and were prepared to make sacrifices. Their children are born into a situation over which they have almost no control, and they find they are neither one thing nor the other.

Differences in religion exacerbate an already difficult situation, making integration harder for the children of immigrants from the Muslim regions of Turkey and the Maghreb region of northwestern Africa. "This means that young people from these countries will always be branded as foreign, even if they were born in the new country," said Castro-Almeida. "Recent episodes of violent racist attacks on young North Africans in France are a clear example. There is a strong mood of xenophobia in Western Europe which I find extremely wor-

many present the most serious threat for the future. Turkish sociologist Faruk Sen reports that in West Germany the Turkish community faces severe problems of integration even after 30 years. Known as "Gastarbeiter" — guest workers — the Turks, who make up more than one third of West Germany's nearly 5 million immigrants, still have little legal security. Women who are widowed or divorced often face deportation. Their children, born in the new country, experience problems in learning and in mixing with their German peers.

Families who decide to return to their home country under the Bonn government's repatriation programme find it hard to re-adjust. The children suffer most, says Sen's report. They are considered German by their Turkish classmates and are often unable to accept lower living standards and social conditions that are vastly different from what they have come to expect.

The collapse of barriers between East and West Germany have made West Germany's Turkish community even more vulnerable, experts note. "The arrival of so many East Germans has made it harder for the Turkish immigrants to find work," said Castro-Almeida. "Many jobs are specifically reserved for East Germans."

Another dark cloud looming on the horizon is the elimination of the European Community's internal borders by January 1993. So far, the 12 member states have not agreed on a common immigration policy, but ILO staff see no signs that non-European residents would benefit from new rules allowing freer movement within the EC. Again, special rules will probably be drafted to limit their rights. "There is a strong risk that there will be even more restriction than before, since it looks likely that there will be even tougher controls on the EC's external borders," Castro-Almeida said.

In May 1989 the interior ministers of the EC countries agreed to look at the possibility of extending visa privileges to some non-EC nationals. Italy, traditionally

one of the least restrictive countries, has already announced plans to introduce visas for certain nationalities. Meanwhile, in the absence of an EC ruling, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France and West Germany have drawn up what is known as the Schengen treaty, agreeing to mount their own policing of external borders and introduce a common visa and entry policy, as yet unspecified.

As Western Europe becomes more affluent, countries with a history of emigration are now attracting their own immigrant populations. Italy, Spain, Greece and even Portugal are having their first taste of immigration — and the racism that often accompanies it.

"Logically speaking, these countries should be more receptive to immigrants, since the people themselves have had experience of trying to live and work in a foreign country," said Castro-Almeida. "Unfortunately, that doesn't appear to be the case."

At ILO headquarters in Geneva, immigration experts have been studying ways to bridge the gap between foreigners and the host communities and to help the children of immigrants maintain their links with their parents' country. In pilot projects funded by grants from the United Nations, children in Switzerland, Belgium and France whose parents came from Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Turkey, Portugal and Yugoslavia are being sent back to their parents' countries to work for a while in community and national development.

"The idea is to forge a closer sense of identity between these young people and the country where their parents were born by involving them in a development project there," said Castro-Almeida. "We want to encourage the view that being an immigrant is a positive rather than a negative phenomenon. These people have two cultures, experience of two societies, and they speak two languages. Our aim is to make people see that this isn't something to be ashamed of. It's something to be very proud of" — WNL.



Rebel fighters belonging to Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia pose in the streets of Buchanan in a picture taken after rebel forces retook the town on June 6. At left, rear, armed rebel kicks a soccer ball (File photo).

Slaves learn to enslave as Western applause continues

BY Michelle Faul
The Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — Freed American slaves who founded this West African nation brought across the Atlantic Ocean the gracious antebellum architecture and plantation mentality of their former masters.

In the land they declared a republic in 1847 and named for liberty, they adopted tailcoats and top hats despite the sweltering heat. They enriched themselves by stealing the land and labour of native Liberians, and sometimes even sold the natives into slavery.

Today, vengeance against the immigrants is surfacing after years of brutal repression.

Many of the balconied mansions with their U.S. southern-style gables and wooden shutters are boarded up. Their owners are fleeing the country since soldiers June 9 butchered three Americo-Liberians, the name given to the descendants of the country's elitist founders.

The Americo-Liberians, an estimated 5 per cent of the na-

tion's 2.5 million people, fear further reprisals because they are accused of supporting the man presenting the most potent challenge to President Samuel K. Doe during his 10-year presidency.

Rebel leader Charles Taylor, who began an insurgency that has escalated into tribal war, is half Americo and half native Liberian.

Some of the tight-knit group of just 300 Americo-Liberian families deny their people even exist anymore because there has been so much inter-marriage with what they used to call "aborigines."

America's south. Doe, an illiterate master sergeant when he took power, moved from a broken-down barracks with a leaking roof into the \$6-million marble executive mansion that Israeli built for President William Tolbert, whom the coup plotters slaughtered and disemboweled in his bed.

But Doe perpetuated the nepotistic rule and finessed the corruption of the leaders he overthrew, keeping the power and state money among his own Krahn people, who make up about 5 per cent of the population.

But Americo-Liberians con-

Their showcase "democracy" initially was feted by successive U.S. and other Western governments, who ignored their subjugation of local tribespeople.

In the old days the "bossman" Americo-Liberian would steal his workers' wives to enrich the gene pool.

Later, they adopted native wards for the same purpose.

But most Americo-Liberians have opposed Doe since he seized power in a bloody 1980 coup that ended their 133-year monopoly on power and money.

The adventurous freed men and women who came to the West African coast said they were on a civilising mission to bring their Western knowledge back to the African continent. The flow of American blacks to Liberia continued into his century, though the vast majority had arrived before the U.S. civil war ended in 1865.

Their showcase "democracy" initially was feted by successive U.S. and other Western governments, who ignored their subjugation of local tribespeople.

It ended in 1931 when a league of nations report said young boys were being hunted like wild animals and sold into slavery. Others were forced to work for no pay and tortured if they did not, the report said 60 years ago.

The report brought down the government of Charles Dunbar Burgess King, whose government was implicated in the slave trade.

Today, the "country people" or native peasants of Liberia still live hovels of Monrovia and huts in undeveloped countryside with no running water or electricity, in poverty similar to the sharecroppers who eked out a living in

tinued to dominate the economy because the wealth they had accumulated before 1980.

"Americo-Liberians still for the most part make up the educated class of Liberia and the present exodus will hurt this country's economy no end in the long run," said Clifford Flemister, 49, a banker whose father brought him to this country at the age of 11.

"If I had not come to Liberia, I'd probably be a gangster in Chicago or a fat master sergeant in the army," Flemister said in an interview, adding he made his first million more than a decade ago.

Liberia's ties to the United States, which newspapers here call the country's "godfather," are visible everywhere.

Policemen wear old summer uniforms from the United States, some still with the label of the New York police department.

Most restaurants offer hamburgers, southern fried chicken, ketchup.

"Hey man, what's up?" is the American-style English greeting heard on the streets, thickened by the Liberian accents of natives whose tonal dialects make the expression difficult to understand.

"It's a matter of class, culture and education that raises us above the superstition and cannibalism of some of the country folk," said one Americo-Liberian woman on condition she not be identified. "Such views are widely held but political dynamite right now."



70 years to take old shape

By David Brough
Reuters

PORTSMOUTH, England — The battle of Trafalgar was won in less than a day but restoring the badly damaged flagship which led the British fleet to victory is taking more than 70 years.

HMS Victory, which defeated the French and Spanish and scuppered Napoleon's plans to invade Britain almost two centuries ago, now sits wrapped in scaffolding in Portsmouth harbour in Southern England.

A dozen defence ministry shipwrights swarm over the bow of the black-and-yellow ship.

The restoration, which began in 1922, is now about 60 per cent complete and should be finished by 1996, ready for the 200th anniversary of Trafalgar celebrations in Portsmouth in 2005, said Ken Poate, head of the shipwrights.

The outnumbered British warships under Admiral Horatio Nelson defeated the French and Spanish fleet under French Admiral Pierre De Villeneuve west of Cape Trafalgar, off the Spanish Mediterranean coast, on Oct. 21, 1805.

French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte subsequently abandoned his plans to invade Britain.

"We were able to inflict a defeat of such magnitude against the French at Trafalgar that they were never again able to threaten our shores," said Lieutenant-Commander John Whitehead, the present commanding officer of the Victory, which is still regarded as part of the British Navy.

Nelson was shot and mortally wounded by a French musketeer in the fighting. His body was preserved in a barrel of brandy and sent to England to be buried in Westminster Abbey.

The restoration of the victory is a painstaking task.

"Every piece is moulded from the original," said Poate, referring to the replanking work.

His shipwrights have no original plans of the Victory to guide them. Instead, the craftsmen must take out every piece of oak — often rotten with damp and gnawed by the death watch beetle — and replace it with more durable and beetle-resistant Burmese teak or cheaper African iroko wood.

"You can sometimes hear the knocking sound as the beetles eat," Poate said.

Oak was the best timber available in England when the victory was built in the southern town of Chatham in 1765. Whitehead estimated that 10 to 15 per cent of the Victory's original timber was still sound.

The three-quarter-ton figurehead bearing the red, blue and gold crest of King George III was unveiled last month by Admiral of the fleet Sir William Staveley after workers spent seven years refurbishing it.

The British taxpayer is currently paying \$3.2 million a year to restore the Victory. Much of the expense was due to the high-quality teak, which cost up to \$4,800 per cubic metre.

Asked to explain the justification for restoring the Victory at such cost, Whitehead said, "the Victory reflects what we went through as a nation to get where we are today."

"People on the south coast of England at the time were terrified that the French might invade. But they didn't — thanks to Nelson's fleet and the Victory."

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'Sweeping' banking laws in the making for Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The final draft of a set of laws, described as heralding "sweeping changes in the Jordanian banking sector," has been forwarded by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to the Council of Ministers for discussion and onward presentation to Parliament, informed sources said Saturday.

The proposed legislation aims at "tightening the entire banking system in Jordan by designating and clarifying the areas of authorities of the Central Bank in relation to commercial banks," said an economist. "The law has been in the making over the past year," he added.

According to Dr. Abdulla Malki, president of the Association of Banks of Jordan, the Kingdom "needs an overhaul and modernisation of its banking regulations" and the proposed legislation will go a long way in "plugging loopholes in the existing system."

"It is unavoidable," Malki told the Jordan Times. "We need it and we welcome it. There is a pressing need to modernise the Jordanian banking regulations to adapt them to international systems and methods."

Information available to the Jordan Times indicates that the proposed law clearly stipulates the responsibilities of the board of directors and officials of commercial banks and designates areas where the CBJ could step in with a view to protecting national and public interests.

It also clears the way for easier and independent auditing of the books of accounts of commercial banks and the concerned auditing authorities would be free to conduct their business without interference from any sources.

Parts of the legislation deals with capital of banks and regulations related to liabilities and obligations of manage-

ment. No precise details were immediately available on these aspects.

Senior officials have said that the Central Bank does not intend to license any new banks in Jordan. On the contrary it favours limiting the number of commercial banks operating in Jordan through encouraging mergers. At the same time, Central Bank Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi has also said that "we will not impose anything on anybody."

According to the sources, the draft law spells out a series of measures and practices related to foreign exchange transactions, and will also help the authorities single out institutions capable of handling exchange houses as and when related legislation clears the way for such entities. A Central Bank proposal has already been presented to the government outlining new regulations to allow for a limited number of private exchange houses to function in the Kingdom. All private moneychangers — except those operated by commercial banks — were ordered closed early last year and most of their businesses have been liquidated.

The present banking law was enforced in 1975. Several additions and amendments were incorporated into it since then, related to private sector finance corporations, coverage for the issuance of Jordanian dinars and mandatory commercial bank deposits at the Central Bank.

Years of work have gone into the proposed legislation, according to a senior management official of a leading Jordanian bank. "Everytime the authorities felt they had the final draft something happened in Jordanian banking which warranted amendments, alterations and updating," he added, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

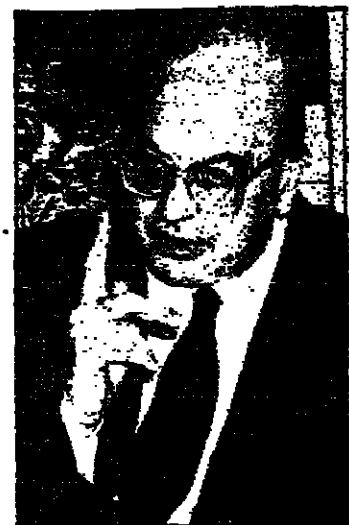
One of the aims of the legislation is to avoid any repetition of such "banking malpractices and violations such as those which led to the collapse of Petra Bank," according to an official source. "The new law includes provisions for closer and better scrutiny of the operations of every commercial bank in Jordan and allows for speedy interventions by the Central Bank and other concerned authorities wherever warranted before harm could be done to public interests."

For instance, said the source, "had there been firmer provisions in the existing law, the government would not have had to use martial law through the Economic Security Committee (ESC) to take over Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank." As it was, he added, "the take-over came after the harm was already done."

The ESC ordered government take-over and merger of the two banks in August 1989 after both hit financial straits and were unable to comply with Central Bank regulations because of lack of liquidity. "It was not that the Central Bank did not know that there was something wrong with the two banks, but it had not realised the seriousness of the problems until after a thorough scrutiny was made by auditors after their take-over," commented the source.

The source pointed out that "the consequences of actions delayed by the absence of legal options are very clear in the case of Petra Bank."

It has become apparent that Petra Bank, which continued its losing streak even after the take-over, is unable to exist as an entity in its present form any longer, and a proposal is under study by the concerned government agencies to liquidate it and establish a new banking institution in its place, according to other sources.



Bettino Craxi

Latin America, Caribbean agree on debt plan

CARACAS (R) — Latin American and Caribbean nations called Friday for a sharp cut in the massive outflow of financial resources from the region, which currently services \$400 billion of debt.

"The basic intention is to reduce net transfers to at most one-quarter of what they are today," Angel Gurria, Mexico's chief debt negotiator, told Reuters.

Delegates at a 24-nation conference organised by a regional group, the Latin American Economic System (SELA), said the basic wording of a detailed proposal had been agreed by finance ministers and government officials.

Net financial outflows from Latin America and the Caribbean are running at \$25 billion a year and have totalled more than \$230 billion since the debt crisis began eight years ago.

Gurria said SELA's plan had been misrepresented in some newspapers, which had suggested the organisation was proposing a write-off of 75 per cent of Latin America's debt.

"We are agreeing on a fundamental concept of limiting net transfers," Gurria said. "Although there are different ways to skin a cat, we suggest ways to achieve it without being too confrontational."

One of the main ideas behind the SELA plan is that principal owed by debtor countries should be discounted to reflect levels at which the debt trades on the secondary market.

Debt owed to the banks by developing nations trades at a discount in the world's major financial centres.

Latin American and Caribbean debt was changing hands in November, 1989, at an average of 77.5 per cent of its face value.

The plan also calls for the debt to be exchanged for heavily discounted bonds to be issued by debtor countries, which would have a maturity of at least 35 years and pay a fixed annual rate of interest of about five per cent.

Western governments that have lent to countries in the region are also being asked to ease repayment terms, either by allowing more time for the money to be paid back or by writing off part of the loans.

Some nations, such as Jamaica, owe more to Western creditor governments and multilateral institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) than to the commercial banks.

New institution

U.N. special envoy Bettino Craxi called Friday for a new international institution to deal with a crushing debt burden that has weighed on Latin America and other developing regions for nearly a decade.

Craxi, a former Italian prime minister who is Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's special representative on debt, said in written remarks:

"The problem is systemic and in order to solve it you need an institution which can deal with it across the board."

Craxi, who is due to present his proposals for tackling the debt problem at a joint news conference with Perez de Cuellar in Geneva next month, gave written answers in Italian to questions put to him in writing.

"The institutional subject which should operate to resolve the debt problem in a systemic way with funds to provide incentives for agreements should be set up within the IMF and World Bank," he added.

A new debt institution would work in close cooperation with regional development banks. "I am thinking in particular of the Inter-American Development Bank in Latin America's case, which has and must have an ever greater role in recycling financial flows."

OPEC set for stormy meeting

ABU DHABI (R) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) appears set for a stormy meeting next month after the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Saturday angrily rejected Iraqi accusations that it produced too much oil and was mainly responsible for low world oil prices.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sent a top envoy with a letter to UAE President Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan, one day after Iraq's oil minister singled out the UAE as the only member which was not abiding by the cartel's rules on output.

OPEC President Sadok Bousena, fresh from talks in Baghdad, told reporters that the UAE must be brought back into OPEC's failing output quota pact and he hoped to meet some of the UAE's demands for a higher quota soon.

A close aide of Bousena predicted difficult talks after the OPEC president's meeting with Iraq and the UAE, his first two rounds of discussions on a tour of Gulf oil producers to try to reach a consensus on a new quota pact ahead of the ordinary meeting in Geneva July 25.

Bousena, Algeria's oil minister, is also scheduled to visit Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia — three key members in the 13-nation organisation.

"Differences have emerged though the meeting is still a month away," said the aide, who declined to be identified.

OPEC delegation sources have predicted the meeting might last

up to two weeks if the ministers decided to tackle the thorny issue of apportioning individual quotas to the cartel's 13 members.

UAE oil ministry sources said the visit by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi was linked to Iraqi Oil Minister Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi's accusations Friday.

They were rejected Saturday by the UAE Oil Minister Mansour Al Oteiba.

"Our output was 2.1 million barrels per day (bpd) in May.... then instructions were issued to oil companies to cut Abu Dhabi's oil production by 200,000 barrels," Oteiba told a news conference after talks with Bousena.

"I want to make clear that the UAE rejects threats and pressure from any source. I hope the recent comments from a fellow minister were not real but only a slip," he said without directly naming Chalabi, or Iraq.

The sources said that pressure on the UAE could only push it to increase oil output further, leading to lower oil prices which Iraq would not want.

Iraq wants higher prices for oil, its main foreign currency earner, to rebuild its economy that was badly damaged in the 1980-88 Gulf war with Iran.

OPEC oil ministers agreed in emergency talks in Geneva May 3 to shave almost 1.5 million bpd off total OPEC output in May through July to get it back below the 22.086 million bpd output limit agreed at another Geneva OPEC meeting in November.

Europeans to debate aid to Soviet Union

BRUSSELS, Belgium (Agencies) — West European leaders this week will debate a multi-billion dollar aid programme for the troubled Soviet economy, but Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev should not count on immediate help.

The officials of the European Community (EC) are considered unlikely to come up quickly with an extensive plan to help Gorbachev transform his backward economy.

"This is not going to be a check-writing occasion," insisted a senior official of a community delegation, who demanded anonymity.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President Francois Mitterrand have urged their colleagues in the 12-nation trading bloc to discuss the issue at the summit that opens Monday in Dublin, Ireland.

They also intend to raise the sensitive question at the economic summit next month in Houston of the seven key industrialised nations.

Observers speculate that Gorbachev will be more likely to accept Western plans for a united Germany if he is given financial help.

"If Mikhail Gorbachev succeeds, that would be in the interest of everyone," Mitterrand said in an interview with the French newspaper Le Monde.

Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey, who will preside over the Dublin gathering, said there was "a very definite wish" among the community's leaders to offer Gorbachev support in his faltering reform programme.

Gorbachev is under increasing pressure from both the right, who fear his harsh economic overhaul will spark social unrest, and the left, who say he is not going far or fast enough. But Moscow has not yet asked for foreign assistance.

Kohl, in a letter to his West European colleagues, was "looking for initiatives" that the European Community (EC) could take to bolster the Soviet economy, said a community source, who demanded anonymity.

"He thinks we should do something, but he's not very precise," he said.

Diplomatic sources in Bonn, also demanding anonymity, said Kohl wanted other Western nations to offer credits to Moscow. West German bank just agreed to pump more than \$3 billion in loans into the Soviet economy.

The dozen nations of the trading bloc, also known as the common market, already have joined others in the West in offering financial, trade and technical

assistance to the emerging democracies on the other half of their continent.

But until recently they have been hesitant to do the same for the populous and troubled Soviet Union.

Aid Germany

There has been increasing talk in recent weeks of helping Gorbachev. In providing massive aid, the Western hope is that the Kremlin chief would be encouraged to drop his objections to a united Germany's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

The German magazine Der Spiegel reported recently that Moscow was prepared to accept a united Germany in NATO in exchange for economic help and remoulding the Western military alliance along less threatening lines.

The magazine said Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had written Germany's Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and mentioned a figure of \$20 billion.

Genscher, asked about the report in a radio interview, replied, "we are naturally in favour of closer economic cooperation and of financial cooperation. We're ready for that, and we're talking about that with the Soviets."

U.S. officials have not committed themselves to giving aid to Moscow. Some say the United States would likely stay on the sidelines.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has cautioned that the West must examine the problem carefully. "We are dealing with a country with abundant resources suffering from a unique form of misgovernment," he said.

The European Community is in charge of an effort by 24 Western countries to help Poland and Hungary. The programme will be extended next month to other emerging democracies in Eastern Europe. Romania will be excluded because of the recent repression of demonstrators there.

Some officials said it was unlikely the programme would be broadened to cover the Soviet Union because of concern its enormous problems would absorb too much aid.

No cash, just involvement

According to a senior Soviet official quoted by Reuters, the Soviet Union does not want Western cash handouts to prop up its ailing economy, but would welcome investment and inclusion in the wider development of Europe.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JUNE 24, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day and evening when you can be so confused or have such incorrect hunches and impressions that you could make a big mistake. Tell others of your inner perceptions....

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) All kinds of behind the scenes preparations can now be made for you to organise, confidentially a plan of action to make much rapid future progress.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A day to make a point to see as many interesting friends and acquaintances as possible and to get their support for some cherished longing.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think about your career and credit conditions now and go after improving them in the world of action with courage, confidence and conviction.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be openminded to all kinds of advancement in new areas of expression and delve into every factor and phase that will aid you to get ahead.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You see clearly today what you can do to analyse and synthesise the various business activities you have so they are far more productive of desired results.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 21) Be willing to sit down with associates who are not as quick

thinking or as analytical as you and come to some agreement by much talk for more concord.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Consider well just what it is possible for you to do to make your usual activities more responsive to the needs of those who have any control over your affairs.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) You instinctively are aware today how to please your mate and any other close companions who are important to you so do so without procrastination.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you have some discussions you desire with other persons this is the day to invite them into your home for a meal and come to an accord.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get deeply into whatever hobbies appeal, to you the most so that your off hours can be spent with more pleasure and satisfaction to yourself.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are aware now about the best manner in which to add to your present income and holdings, and should put in effect right away a new arrangement.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) At last you have the perfect day for concentrating upon your personal wishes and goals and going after them in a straightforward manner.

THE Daily Crossword by Henry Satchander

ACROSS

- Net leapt
- accomplish
- Feasting sore
- Russ. lake
- Hawks' milieu
- surgeon
- Flag feature
- Feel sorrow
- Infant's knit sock
- Foray
- Fire: pref.
- Shark movie
- Assy
- James Earl
- Grunting assent
- Mythic writing
- Breakfast roll
- Prevarication
- Pastoral inhabitant
- Slip past
- Domino
- So-so grade
- Lab dish
- Warbled
- Car damage
- Part of MIT
- Scriptural reading
- Cat's-paw
- High point in an orbit
- Untamed
- Flag features
- Congo
- Tribe man
- Deal (with)
- Foolish old
- Chelkov
- Chief
- Verge

DOWN

- Cornic actor
- Bert
- Dies
- Tempress
- Gantry and
- Fudd
- Courage
- GP's gp.
- Hostelry
- Morsel
- Flag feature
- Scriptural
- Safed item for short
- First name in mystery
- Cavir base
- Alfonso's queen
- Soak old style
- Galsway
- Mint drink
- Spry
- Cereal grain
- Al. town
- Relative
- Ger. city
- Page
- Red or Black
- Flag
- Stock word
- Impasse
- Deadlocked
- Deer
- Breath hard
- Footless creature
- Earth scl.
- Puma de
- Govt. agoy
- 59 Dear
- Resort area

Yesterday's Puzzle Solvent

ACROSS

- FRADT
- EAPEY
- LUFOWE
- DARCCO

DOWN

- FRADT
- EAPEY
- LUFOWE
- DARCCO

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

HARRIS 5-23

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FRADT

EAPEY

LUFOWE

DARCCO

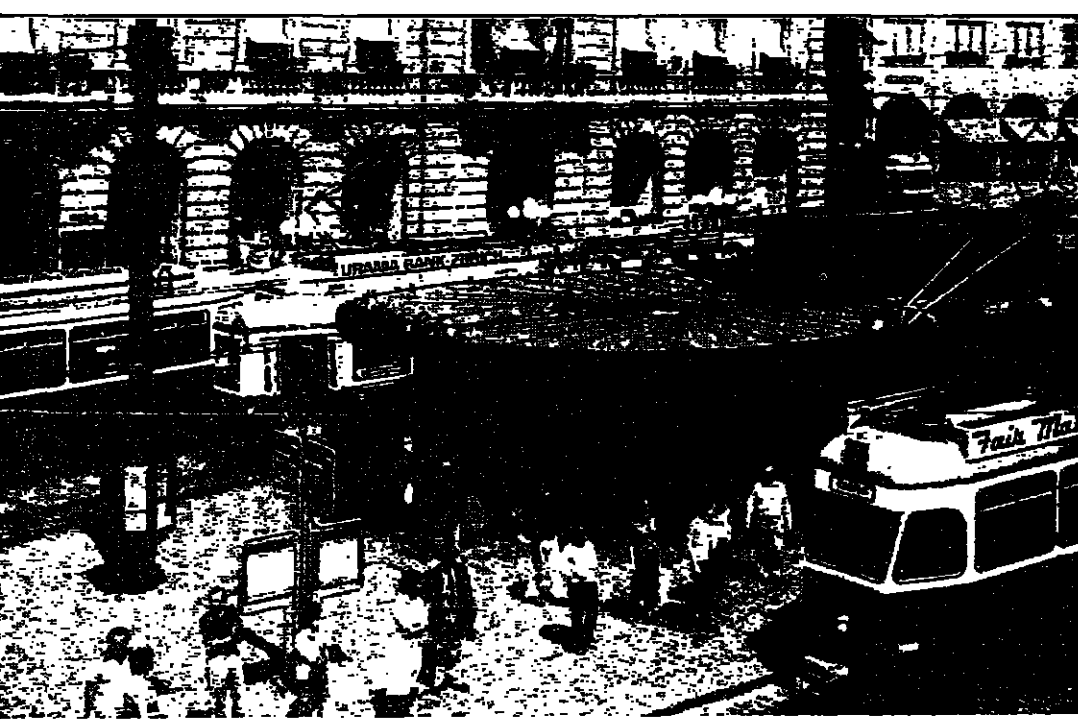
Answer here: IN

THE SWIMMING POOL WAS MORE THAN HE COULD AFFORD, AND NOW HE'S...

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumble: RAJAH VISOR ANKLET INDIGO

Answer: Provides the main course on a flight — THE NAVIGATOR



Bankers scramble for 'new' wealth as 'old' money fades

By Michael Shields
Reuters

GENEVA — The sedate world of private banking is about to become uncharacteristically aggressive as the personal bankers to the seriously rich start scrambling for the right to handle the new wealth of the merely successful.

This consensus developed among leading private bankers who met in this centre of their profession in early June to examine the opportunities of the 1990s.

For those private bankers who until now have considered their main function to be far removed from the bustle of the marketplace, the prospect is sobering.

"We can no longer rely only on our old clients," said Philip Stevens, director of Lazard Investors in London and a banker who will show you the door unless you have at least 1 million pounds sterling (\$1.7 million) to entrust to him.

"We have to sell ourselves to the new rich, the entrepreneurs and the inheritance generation."

countries now unable to repay, banks around the world have turned to private banking to provide low-risk, high-profit income.

Insurers, brokers and independent asset managers also elbow one another in the market to serve affluent clients.

Competition heats up

"Competition is heating up, and it will continue to grow over the next two or three decades," said Arthur Rutzen, head of marketing for Wells Fargo bank's private banking, the largest in the United States with \$35 billion under management.

The market is huge and growing as the entrepreneurs active in Europe after World War II and, more recently, in Asia and Middle East seek to invest their riches.

Russell Taylor, associate editor of the magazine Private Banker International, said Citibank has estimated the potential market for managing such wealth at \$7 trillion and the potential private banking profits at \$50 billion.

The struggle to win a share of those profits has highlighted the different approaches private banks take to the business.

In Switzerland, still regarded by most as the undisputed leader in private banking, the term has traditionally meant conservative investment of large family for-

tunes by discreet men whose primary mission is to keep such fortunes intact.

Swiss banks now manage around \$1 trillion worth of such funds, of which private banks invest some 10 to 15 per cent, according to figures cited by Pierre Mirabaud, president-elect of the Swiss Private Bankers Association.

Mirabaud is also a partner of Mirabaud et Cie, a truly private bank for which the general partners bear unlimited personal liability for their customers' accounts.

"An honest private banker puts all his assets at the disposal of his clients," explained Pierre Lardy, a partner at Geneva's renowned Pictet et Cie.

These tradition-minded European bankers place a premium on loyal service and attention to their customers, many of whose families have been clients of the bank for generations.

"The essential European model private banker sees the fact that he may sit in the same room, looking after the same clients for 30 years as a career success," said Lazard's Stevens.

"He is the manager of wealth, the custodian of long-term financial plans and frequently the friend and counsellor on the management of risk and expectation as they concern the family's financial future."

LA SEMAINE DE ...

Suleiman Sweiss

Pauvreté: Qui doit payer?

Il est inutile de continuer à ignorer ou à sous-estimer le problème de la pauvreté dans notre pays. Nous avons hérité, par la politique de l'autruche, d'un état de déshérence qui se traduit par une situation de déshérence.



Où, la pauvreté devient un problème grave et touche de plus en plus les gens. De nombreuses familles souffrent même de la faim. A Amman-ouest, des femmes et des enfants fouillent tous les jours dans les poubelles à l'ordure pour trouver de quoi manger, parmi les restes des familles opulentes.

On a beau parler de «interdépendance sociale», des valeurs morales et de l'aide nationale, la réalité est différente et dure. Certes, la pauvreté est une question sociale, mais elle est aussi et surtout économique.

Et d'abord: quelle est la définition du «pauvre» dans la société jordanienne aujourd'hui? Entendons-nous: la pauvreté a existé et elle existe en Jordanie comme dans d'autres pays. Tant que son taux et son ampleur restent dans des limites raisonnables, la pauvreté passe inaperçue. A partir d'un certain seuil, l'étendue du problème reflète une injustice sociale grave.

La pauvreté est relative. Elle se définit par rapport aux besoins vitaux de l'homme et par rapport aux revenus et aux conditions de vie.

Tenant compte de ces facteurs, on estimait en 1987 - donc avant la dévaluation du dinar - que tous ceux dont le revenu mensuel ne dépassait pas les 100 dinars devaient être considérés comme pauvres. Aujourd'hui, selon l'économiste Falek Falek, 175.000 familles vivent au-dessous du seuil de pauvreté. Or chaque famille est composée de cinq membres, en moyenne, ce qui nous amène à constater qu'aujourd'hui à peu près un Jordanien sur trois est pauvre. Un chiffre qui correspond avec l'estimation avancée il y a trois semaines par quelqu'un de compétence dans ce domaine: Dans un article publié par notre confrère «Al-Dustour», en effet, M. Abdullah Al-Khatib, président de la Fédération des Associations de Bienfaisance, écrivait qu'«au moins 30% de la population jordanienne est pauvre».

Le gouvernement a réagi face à ce problème depuis 1986 en créant un «Fonds pour l'Aide Nationale». C'est une sorte d'aumône versée annuellement à des familles pauvres. Mais le budget de ce fonds s'est élevé de 2 à 4 millions de dinars. Cet effort n'a pas empêché la pauvreté de grandir et d'atteindre un taux dramatique. D'autres organisations sociales et religieuses ont contribué - il faut le reconnaître - à la campagne contre la pauvreté.

De plus, le sujet commence à susciter l'intérêt des chercheurs et des responsables. Une étude réalisée par le ministère du développement social conclut que le chômage est la raison principale de la pauvreté des familles. Les propositions se multiplient: créer un nouvel organisme pour l'emploi, développer l'action humanitaire et faire appel aux sentiments des couches aisées.

De toutes les analyses, et les prises de position que j'ai pu lire ou entendre sur la pauvreté, aucune n'est allée au fond de la question. On se contente d'évoquer les aspects secondaires ou de parler de la solidarité sociale. On veut être concret, pratique et efficace. Mais les solutions proposées ne sont qu'une sorte d'anesthésie, juste valable pour une période très brève, avant que la douleur ne reprenne de plus belle.

Pourquoi ne pas le dire très clairement: aujourd'hui, les riches minoritaires s'enrichissent de plus en plus et les pauvres majoritaires s'appauvrissent de plus en plus. Les riches veulent mettre sur le dos des classes populaires le fardeau de la crise économique que traverse le pays.

La solution n'est pas l'aumône, qui veut cacher ou justifier l'injustice sociale, mais plutôt la redistribution - par des moyens fiscaux et autres - de telle façon que les riches contribuent plus activement à la solution de la crise économique.

Des milliers de délinquants en Jordanie

Criminels par obligation

Le nombre d'arrestations de mineurs en Jordanie est passé de 3.280 en 1985 à 5.576 en 1986. Un chiffre choc, mais qui reste encore loin de la réalité, si l'on

pas être inférieur à dix dinars. «Qui m'arrive de voler, avoue-t-il, mais enfin j'y suis obligé.» Ces mineurs, poussés à travailler, sont les plus susceptibles de devenir des délinquants. Selon un rapport consacré à ce phénomène, réalisé il y a deux ans pour l'université de Californie par le Dr. Sabri Rubelhat, criminologue et l'un des responsables du PSD (département de la sécurité publique), les statistiques montrent que 54% des délinquants sont des laissés pour compte par leurs parents, poussés au travail très jeunes. Les études révèlent aussi que le phénomène de la délinquance se concentre dans les milieux populaires et dans les sociétés qui subissent des changements économiques abrupts.

D'après Dr. Rubelhat, le rôle de l'éducation et l'influence des parents sur leurs enfants, l'attachement de l'enfant à ses parents et son intégration des normes et valeurs sociales et culturelles sont les facteurs les plus susceptibles de protéger les mineurs contre le crime.

En revanche, des études en Jordanie menées par la commission nationale anti-crime révèlent un phénomène surprenant de parents poussant leurs enfants à commettre des crimes notamment le meurtre de leurs sœurs au nom de l'honneur familial et social.

Il y a presque cinq mois, R.H., 17 ans a tué sa sœur aînée qui

considère les cas non pris en compte des filles délinquantes, et les cas qui ne sont pas reportés dans les registres officiels.

étudiait à l'université dès qu'il l'a vue seule avec un homme dans un restaurant. «C'est quelque chose d'ordinaire et de fréquent dans notre société, explique un officiel du PSD. Le problème est que ce sont les parents qui poussent leurs enfants à commettre ces actes en les convainquant que c'est pour l'intérêt général et pour protéger la réputation de la famille.»

En principe, les mineurs ne reçoivent pas la même punition que les adultes. Les condamnations des mineurs sont plus légères.

Selon la commission nationale, c'est la raison de beaucoup de meurtres et des crimes commis par les mineurs. Les adultes savent que les mineurs, selon la loi jordanienne, ne sont pas envoyés en prison mais dans des centres de réhabilitation, où ils continuent leur éducation et apprennent un métier.

Dès qu'ils sortent, ils peuvent continuer leur vie professionnelle avec un casier judiciaire vierge. Il faut savoir aussi que les crimes commis par des filles ne sont pas enregistrés par la police, pour ne pas nuire à l'honneur de leur famille, ce qui réduit considérablement les statistiques.

L'absence des parents de la vie quotidienne de leurs enfants est également une des raisons principales de la délinquance, même dans les milieux riches.

Un gang de six garçons issus de familles aisées avouent qu'ils vo-

lent des pièces des voitures qui se garent à Shmeissani sans motif matériel. «Je rassemble ces pièces dans ma chambre. Je le fais pour m'amuser, généralement, et personne dans la famille n'a rien découvert. Mon père est toujours en voyage et ma mère ne reste pas beaucoup à la maison», explique un de ces délinquants.

L'absence des parents dans la maison, et particulièrement des pères, est quelque chose d'ordinaire dans la famille jordanienne. D'après le Dr. Rubelhat, l'absence des pères de la maison est due au fait que beaucoup travaillent dans les pays voisins riches et sont obligés de quitter leur maison pour une longue période.

Par ailleurs, on estime que 62% de la population est âgée de moins de 19 ans.

Ainsi les facteurs économiques et sociaux empêchent les parents de passer beaucoup de temps avec leurs enfants, spécialement quand la famille est très large, empêchant les parents de passer un temps suffisant avec leurs enfants. «Le pire est que beaucoup de parents traitent leurs enfants comme ils ont été traités eux-mêmes, explique le Dr. Rubelhat. Notre société est basée essentiellement sur un système patriarcal autoritaire. Le manque d'études et de chiffres précis sur ce phénomène, alors qu'il continue d'augmenter et de s'aggraver, est un problème majeur de notre société.»

Saada Kelani.

Tradition

Le café dans la vie des Bédouins

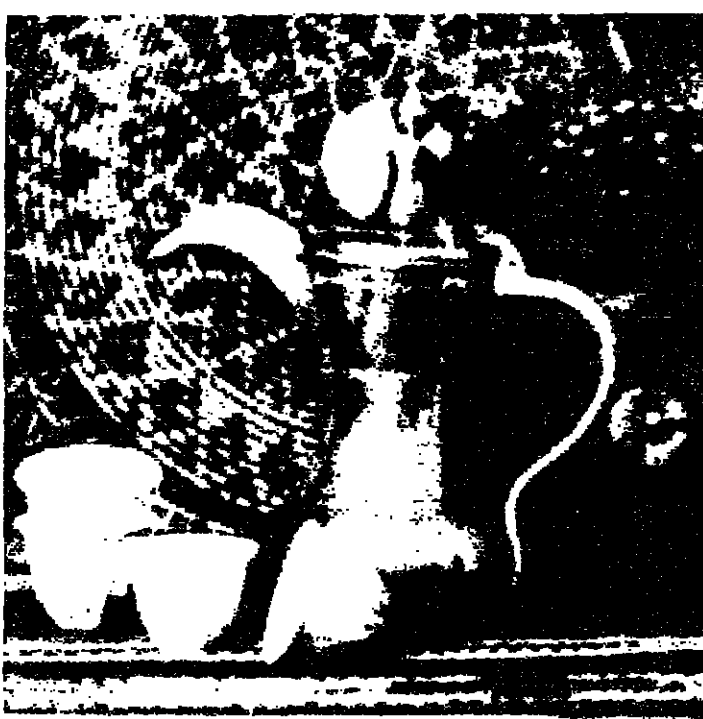
On l'appelle le café noir, arabe, amer ou bédouin, pour le différencier du café turc, sucré, américain ou autre.

Les ethnologues se sont intéressés au rôle et à la signification du café dans la vie sociale des Bédouins. Un rôle bien différent de celui du thé, du lait ou du yaourt. Selon la coutume bédouine, un des premiers devoirs consiste à présenter le café à son hôte, en signe d'hospitalité. Pour cette raison, il y a toujours du café prêt à la maison.

Quand quelqu'un arrive chez un Bédouin, celui-ci l'accueille en lui apportant une literie convenable et en l'installant à une place correspondant à son importance. Aussitôt après, il apporte le café en tenant la cafetière (Al Dalah) de la main droite. Il en verse dans une tasse et le goûte avant l'invité, pour prouver que le café ne contient aucune matière toxique. Il verse ensuite une autre tasse qu'il donne à l'invité et ne cesse de le servir tant que celui-ci ne secoue pas sa tasse en signe de satisfaction. Secouer sa tasse signifie en effet que l'on a été suffisamment servi.

Il est de coutume, chez les Bédouins, de boire trois tasses de café. La première pour fêter l'hôte, la seconde pour le plaisir et la troisième pour l'épée, c'est à dire pour l'honneur et pour l'estime que portent les Bédouins envers l'équitation.

Le chiffre trois a une importance particulière chez les Bédouins car chaque affaire n'est approuvée que si elle est expérimentée trois fois. De même, les Bédouins considèrent que l'homme n'existe socialement que



s'il a trois qualités: le courage, la générosité et l'esprit d'entraide. De même, la durée de l'hospitalité est de trois jours et un tiers. Quant à la quantité de café versé dans une tasse, elle est d'un centimètre car l'homme boit le café par plaisir, contrairement à l'eau qu'il boit en quantité pour éteindre sa soif.

C'est au petit matin que le Bédouin commence à préparer son café. Il allume le feu avec la fagot du désert, un feu qui, selon sa croyance, chasse le démon. Il fait griller les grains de café qui répandent ainsi leur odeur. Il les pile ensuite dans un pilon (Al

Mehbach) dont le son rythmé et l'odeur qui s'en dégagent constituent une invitation pour les voisins.

Le café est aussi signe de souveraineté et sa présence permanente est un symbole très important. On ne peut parler des qualités d'un homme sans mentionner sa manière de préparer le café.

Les Bédouins se réunissent pour boire le café plusieurs fois dans la journée. Le matin, l'assemblée (Diwan) commence de bonne heure et continue jusqu'à 10h. Les participants y parlent de leurs affaires générales avant de

se disperser. Tout absent qui n'a pas fait son apparition avant le déjeuner est considéré comme ayant définitivement perdu son affaire.

L'assemblée du soir, qui commence avant le coucher du soleil et de poursuit jusqu'à une heure très avancée se déroule aussi autour d'un café et consiste à parler des problèmes d'eau, du printemps, de l'état du troupeau et des déplacements du bétail. Les vieux parlent de leurs souvenirs de guerre, de leurs ancêtres, des nouvelles des autres tribus et, souvent, on chante des poésies bédouines accompagnées par un instrument appelé «Al Rababah».

Dans les périodes marquées par des cérémonies sociales telles que les mariages, les deuil ou le déplacement de la tribu, les Bédouins se réunissent tout de même, soit le matin, soit l'après-midi, voire en pleine nuit s'il le faut.

La tasse bédouine se divise en deux parties. «Al Mahram» est le lieu consacré aux femmes et aux enfants. On y prépare la nourriture et l'on y dort. La seconde partie, «Al Shouk», est le lieu consacré à l'assemblée. Les hommes et les femmes ou les hommes seuls s'y réunissent. En son centre se trouve le foyer ou l'on place les cafetières et les autres outils. C'est le lieu des activités sociales de la famille et de la tribu. C'est un peu l'école de la tribu, l'endroit où les nouvelles générations apprennent les habitudes, les traditions et les moeurs bédouines.

Ghaïda al-Hadidi

EN BREF

Service. La Chambre des députés jordanienne a ratifié un projet de loi selon lequel les Jordanien résidant à l'étranger peuvent être dispensés du service militaire obligatoire contre le paiement d'une somme que le Conseil des ministres devrait fixer prochainement aux alentours de 10.000 dollars. Le premier ministre Moudar Badrane a indiqué que près de 40.000 Jordanien sont concernés par cette loi, sur les 350.000 émigrés recensés. Depuis 1978, tout Jordanien de sexe masculin, âgé de 18 ans révolus et qui n'est pas fils unique est appelé à servir 24 mois dans l'armée. Cette mesure est destinée à combler le déficit en devises du pays.

Offensif. Cheikh Tamimi, qui se présente comme le responsable du Jihad islamique Bait al-Makdess, un groupe islamique qui ne s'est manifesté jusqu'à présent qu'en Jordanie, a appelé mercredi le chef de l'OLP, Yasser Arafat, à renoncer à son initiative pacifique et à s'engager dans la lutte militaire pour libérer la Palestine. Quelques jours au paravant, cinq membres de son mouvement, dont deux de ses fils, avaient été arrêtés par les services de sécurité jordanien, qui ont également saisi dans sa ferme deux fusils Kalachnikov et un pistolet.

Rapture. Le président américain George Bush a annoncé mercredi soir la suspension du dialogue entre les Etats-Unis et l'OLP. Washington exige que l'OLP condamne clairement la tentative de débarquement du 30 mai dernier sur les plages israéliennes d'un commando du Front de Libération de la Palestine. Ils demandent aussi que des sanctions soient prises contre un membre du Comité Exécutif de l'OLP, Abou Abbas, commanditaire de l'opération. Les dirigeants de l'OLP ont indiqué qu'ils refusent de se soumettre aux pressions américaines. Le premier ministre israélien Yitzhak Shamir, de son côté, a qualifié cette décision de «positive et importante», ajoutant qu'il l'attendait depuis longtemps. La France enfin a souligné, par la voix de son ministre des affaires étrangères Roland Dumas, qu'elle restait «fermement attachée aux vertus du dialogue» entre Israéliens et Palestiniens.

Séisme. Le tremblement de terre le plus violent de l'histoire mondiale depuis celui de 1976 en Chine a fait au moins 40.000 morts et 100.000 blessés, dans la nuit de mercredi à jeudi, au nord-ouest de l'Iran. Plus de 200 secousses secondaires ont été ressenties jusqu'à samedi, après la secousse initiale, d'une magnitude de 7,3 degrés sur l'échelle de Richter. Aucun séisme, au XXème siècle n'a dépassé une magnitude de 8,5 sur cette échelle. La plupart des pays du monde, y compris ceux qui sont en rupture diplomatique avec l'Iran, ont offert leurs services pour venir en aide aux victimes. C'est le cas notamment des Etats-Unis, d'Israël, de la France et de la Jordanie.

Liban. A l'issue d'une mission de cinq jours au Liban et en Syrie, le secrétaire général du ministère des affaires étrangères français, François Scheer, témoigne d'un certain optimisme sur le règlement du conflit libanais. Selon lui, le général Aoun, qu'il a rencontré, ne réclame plus la modification des accords de Taëf, en tout cas pas le document d'entente nationale. Il demande simplement qu'on regarde de près les accords d'application adoptés par le gouvernement et qui doivent être soumis au parlement. «Il y a des ouvertures à Beyrouth dont il faut tirer parti rapidement», a conclu M. Scheer, à l'issue d'un entretien avec le ministre des affaires étrangères Roland Dumas.

Gorbatchev. Le Congrès constitutif du parti communiste de Russie, répétition générale du 28ème congrès du parti communiste d'URSS qui s'ouvrira le 2 juillet, est l'occasion d'une attaque sans précédent des conservateurs pour reprendre le contrôle de la direction du parti et en chasser Mikhail Gorbatchev. Egor Ligatchev, membre du bureau politique du PC et chef de file des conservateurs, a suggéré mercredi que Mikhail Gorbatchev démissionne de ses fonctions de secrétaire général. «On ne peut pas diriger le parti sans lui donner tout son temps», a-t-il déclaré, faisant allusion au cumul des fonctions de secrétaire général du parti et de président de l'URSS par M. Gorbatchev.

Dérappage. L'ouverture de la sixième conférence internationale sur le SIDA a été marquée mercredi soir à San Francisco par des interpellations manu-militari de personnes atteintes de cette maladie ou porteurs du virus, pour avoir organisé un sit-in au lieu d'obéir à l'ordre de dispersion des autorités. Ces personnes protestaient contre les mesures visant à restreindre l'entrée des sidéens et séropositifs sur le territoire des Etats-Unis. A la tribune, la plupart des orateurs ont protesté contre cette façon de traiter ces malades.

France-Afrique. Le 16ème sommet franco-africain s'est tenu à la Baule (en Bretagne), mercredi et jeudi dernier. M. Mitterrand y a annoncé que la France n'aidait plus les pays les moins avancés (PMA) que sous forme de dons «à 100%». Il a également révélé que Paris avait décidé d'alléger la charge de la dette de quatre pays d'Afrique sub-saharienne: Cameroun, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire et Gabon. En diminuant de moitié les taux d'intérêt des prêts publics français. Il a enfin promis de lancer une nouvelle initiative auprès des six autres partenaires industrialisés au prochain sommet de Houston (Etats-Unis) en juillet, pour les pays à revenu intermédiaire sinistrés de la dette.

Adieux. Bernard Pivot présentera pour la dernière fois vendredi son émission littéraire hebdomadaire à la télévision française, après quinze années de succès. «Apostrophe» avait réussi à transformer un débat sur les livres avec leurs auteurs en émission populaire. «Les éditeurs vont devoir maintenant faire preuve d'imagination», a estimé François Pourissier, de l'Académie Goncourt. Le simple passage à «Apostrophe» de son auteur suffisait en effet jusqu'ici à accroître considérablement les ventes d'un livre. L'émission, qui avait lieu tous les vendredis à 21h30 sur Antenne 2, sera remplacée par une autre émission littéraire. Bernard Pivot, qui en avait assez de consacrer chaque jour dix heures à la lecture rend donc son tablier avec la 174ème édition d'«Apostrophe». Mais il annonce déjà son retour en 1991, avec un magazine culturel.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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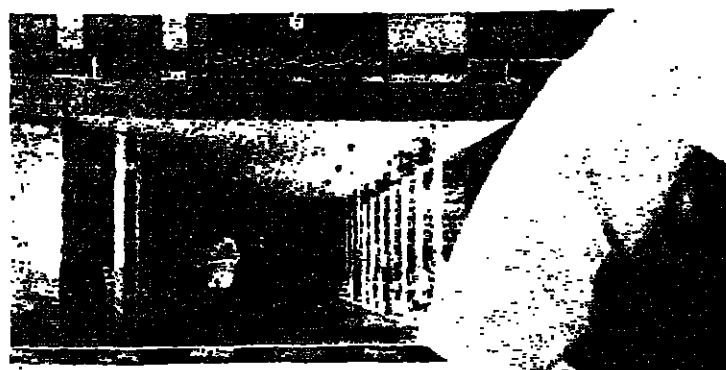
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Jordan Times' JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Tourage

Cinéma en Jordanie... Première!

L'industrie cinématographique est inexistante en Jordanie. Pour faire bouger les choses, pour se connaître et pour s'accomplir, cinq cinéastes jordaniens tournent pour la première fois en vraie



Deux étudiants sortent de l'école et discutent du contenu de leur enseignement, dans une scène du film d'Hassan Abou-Ghanimah.

grandeur cinq fictions destinées à faire connaître la Jordanie. Ils travaillent avec les moyens du bord mais visent suffisamment haut pour espérer participer à des festivals à partir de la fin de cette année.

Ce jour là, Hassan Abou-Ghanimah tourne dans une école à Amman. Il donne quelques indications au directeur de la photo et précise leur rôle aux actrices. Un claquement... «Moteur»... «Action»... «Coupez», et la scène est dans la boîte. On ne refait la prise qu'une ou deux fois pour ne pas gâcher la précieuse pellicule, et l'on repart sur les chapeaux de roue pour un hôpital, tourner une autre scène.

«Nous sommes tous (acteurs, metteurs en scène, techniciens) des bénévoles», explique Hassan. Cela rend les choses assez compliquées car les gens doivent quitter leur travail pour tourner une scène et repartir tout de suite après... Il suffit que quelqu'un soit en retard ou absent pour que tous les autres perdent leur temps.

C'est lui qui est à l'origine de ce projet. Président du ciné-club, qu'il a fondé en 1982, il a derrière lui vingt-cinq ans de culture cinématographique et il a écrit de nombreuses critiques de films pour les différents journaux arabes. Grâce au ciné-club, il a réussi à réunir autour de lui une équipe de passionnés de cinéma, qualifiés techniquement, qui ne demandaient qu'à travailler si on leur en donnait les moyens.

C'est aujourd'hui chose faite: la télévision jordanienne fournit les caméras et les pellicules couleur 35mm. De leur côté, les laboratoires irakiens et syriens ont accepté d'aider ce cinéma naissant en développant les films.

Certes, le matériel de tournage n'est pas du dernier cri: les caméras dorment dans les placards de la télévision depuis 1953, mais elles fonctionnent. Il faut aussi se passer de batteries, ce qui oblige à tourner dans des endroits dotés d'une prise de courant, mais qu'à cela ne tienne, le scénario en tient compte.

Ainsi, ce sont cinq petites fictions de 20 minutes chacune qui sont tournées par des metteurs en scène différents, avec des équipes partiellement communes. Chacun de ces films présente, sous forme d'une histoire imaginaire, un aspect particulier de la société jordanienne.

Celui que tourne Hassan

Abou-Ghanimah, par exemple, évoque le thème de la polygamie en Jordanie, avec les conditions sous lesquelles un Jordanien peut avoir jusqu'à quatre femmes: que la première soit malade, inféconde et qu'il ne s'entende pas avec elle, et l'obligation de traiter également chacune de ses quatre épouses.

L'idée consiste à monter bout à bout ces cinq films pour produire un long métrage de 100 minutes, montrant les différentes facettes de la société jordanienne.

«Grâce à ce travail», explique Fakhri Malkawi, directeur de la photo du film d'Hassan et metteur en scène de l'une des quatre autres fictions, nous faisons connaître les uns des autres, nous apprenons à travailler ensemble et nous montrons ce que nous savons faire.

Les cinq cinéastes avaient déjà fait quelques tentatives en 16mm, avec des équipes de 2 ou 3 personnes, mais il était important qu'ils passent à l'étape de la vraie grandeur, en réalisant un vrai film, susceptible d'être projeté en salle.

Le plus dur a été de trouver des techniciens capables, car les meilleurs avaient été embauchés par la télévision, faute de débouchés dans le cinéma.

Si tout va bien, le tournage des cinq films devrait être terminé en octobre et l'ensemble devrait être prêt à la projection avant la fin de cette année. L'objectif de toute l'équipe est en effet de présenter son film dans les différents festivals, qui se dérouleront à partir de cette époque: le festival du Caire, le festival de Carthage, celui d'Alexandrie, et celui de Pyongyang, en Corée du Nord.

Au-delà de ces festivals, les cinéastes jordaniens espèrent diffuser leur film au Moyen-Orient et peut-être en Europe, dans les salles d'art et essai et dans les cinémathèques.

Hassan et ses amis ont encore beaucoup de scénarii en tête et espèrent séduire quelques producteurs. Le cinéma jordanien est en train de naître. Il n'attend plus que les bonnes fées, pour se pencher sur son berceau.

Jean-Marc Bordes

Exposition de peinture et de gravure

Sous le patronage du Prince Hassan, a été inaugurée au centre culturel royal l'exposition du peintre Rafic al-Lahham, un grand pionnier de la peinture jordanienne. Une synthèse de 40 ans de recherche artistique.



Rafic al-Lahham est diplômé de l'Académie des Beaux-Arts de Rome, l'INALC. Il a poursuivi ses études aux Etats-Unis et a participé à beaucoup d'expositions depuis 1950.

Il est un des fondateurs de l'union des artistes arabes, de l'union des artistes jordaniens et il est aussi le premier à avoir enseigné l'art en Jordanie.

Dans cette exposition, Rafic al-Lahham présente 130 tableaux, qui forment trois parties distinctes.

1-Compositions de calligraphie arabe.

2-Compositions de gravure.

3-Une recherche nouvelle dans le domaine de l'abstraction.

Rafic al-Lahham est un artiste qui ne s'est pas laissé emprisonner par un style ou une technique. Il a toujours été à la recherche d'une nouvelle expression.

On remarque dans cette exposition une grande diversité, une riche variété de styles, de techniques et de couleurs.

L'artiste ne s'est pas contenté de la peinture, il a aussi cherché, dans le domaine de la gravure et de la calligraphie arabe. Il dit qu'il aime tout essayer, tout ce qui touche à l'expression artistique.

Je trouve qu'un peintre qui passe sa vie à se répéter n'a pas la possibilité d'évoluer.

Dans la première partie, l'artiste présente des compositions de calligraphie arabe très modernes. A vrai dire, beaucoup d'artistes ont introduit la lettre arabe dans des compositions plastiques, mais ce qu'on remarque chez Rafic al-Lahham, c'est l'emploi particulier de l'alphabet arabe en tant qu'élément d'expression et des couleurs qui représentent un

environnement désertique, ce qui donne au travail une identité locale.

La deuxième partie c'est la gravure.

L'artiste nous présente des fleurs très riches en couleurs, très solides en composition, des paysages impressionnants, des nus timides exécutés avec des lignes vibrantes de souplesse. Enfin des compositions abstraites, de technique très variée, qui vont de la plaque de zinc jusqu'à l'impression, complétée par un dessin à main levée.

Il est difficile de déceler une influence quelconque chez Rafic al-Lahham. Cela est dû au manque d'unité de style, qui fait d'ailleurs la richesse de cet artiste.

La troisième partie attire particulièrement l'attention. Elle représente le niveau auquel l'artiste est arrivé après 40 ans de recherche. Ce sont des compositions abstraites très expressives, avec des couleurs très raffinées, des formes simples, mais solides, d'une transparence qui, avec l'ensemble de la composition, éveille chez nous des sensations étonnantes.

Il est rare qu'un artiste présente 130 tableaux en une exposition, mais Rafic al-Lahham est honnête, sincère et modeste. Il a voulu nous montrer toute son expérience: les différentes étapes à travers lesquelles il a dû passer.

Il n'est pas aisé de présenter un grand peintre tel que Rafic al-Lahham en si peu d'espace. Vous êtes donc invités à apprécier cette belle et grande expérience jusqu'au 23 juin au OCR.

Sabah Al-Hadidi

A L'AFFICHE

F O C U S

Peinture et cinéma

L'étrange lueur d'un romantique oublié

La vie du plus grand peintre romantique allemand, Caspar David Friedrich, est présentée samedi 30 juin à l'Institut Goethe grâce à un film de Peter Schamoni.

Travail sérieux, Grenzen der Zeit (Au-delà de l'infini, 1986) nous fournit une introduction au premier paysagiste allemand à avoir perçu une signification spirituelle dans la nature, et à avoir ouvert, par «La Croix sur la montagne» (1808) l'ère romantique de la peinture allemande.

Le film de Schamoni se propose d'exposer la sensibilité du peintre, les idées qui l'ont animées et les controverses qui entouraient son travail, mais il n'arrive pas à expliquer pourquoi cette figure fort controversée dans les cercles artistiques de son temps fut oubliée pendant trois quarts de siècle après sa mort. Ce n'est qu'à l'exposition de Berlin du Tournant du Siècle (1906) que l'Allemagne prendra conscience de l'importance culturelle de son peintre. Schamoni fait mention du mystère mais il ne s'attache pas à un thème précis de la vie de Friedrich et ne formule aucun problème à l'égard du romantisme.

Péchant par un manque de contenu dramatique et philosophique, le film a quand même une valeur documentaire. En nous montrant des tableaux clés - parfois discutés en détail - Schamoni nous offre une initiation aux thèmes et à la manière de Friedrich. Mais le manque de contraste avec les perceptions de ses contemporains classicistes, laisse de côté un problème essentiel: comment, en dotant le paysage, la lumière et les changements de temps d'un esprit émotionnel et symbolique, Friedrich a révolutionné notre perception.

Car elle le fut. Friedrich marque un changement d'idéal esthétique, rompant avec le culte de l'ordre et définissant un idéal aux traits mathématiques par une approche subjective et visionnaire. Le sujet de la nature s'imposait comme une des thématiques les plus pertinentes de ce point de vue. A l'opposé des classicistes, Friedrich a considéré la nature non pas comme un motif à organiser - et pour ainsi dire à conquérir par l'artiste - mais, dans sa grandeur, sa férocité et le sentiment d'infini qu'elle inspire, comme un reflet d'une condition à contempler. Si la nature évoquait pour lui la mélancolie, c'est qu'il voyait dans cette infinité tout à la fois le désespoir et la grandeur de l'envie humaine. Traduire Grenzen der Zeit - une phrase tirée des notes de Friedrich - par «au-delà de l'infini» plutôt que par «aux frontières du temps» souligne cet esprit nouveau dit romantique, un esprit fondé sur le rêve.

Schamoni montre qu'à la rencontre des tableaux de Friedrich, à la thématique étrange, le public de la première décennie du XIXème siècle n'était pas seul à demeurer éffaré. Ces évocations de lieux moroses (ruines d'églises gothiques, par exemple) - où l'ambiance engendrée par l'automne, l'hiver, le crépuscule, la brume, le clair de lune correspondaient à des états d'âme - faisaient aussi débat chez ses confrères, à l'Académie de peinture de Dresde, la ville qu'il habita toute sa vie et qui devint le centre de la peinture romantique allemande.

Alors même qu'ils reconnaissaient ses talents, ils disputaient ses choix de sujet et son traitement de la personne. Peintes de dos, enrobées d'une brume montagneuse ou menacées par un crépuscule gagnant, qui étaient donc ces figures contemplatives désolées de s'unir et se perdre dans l'espace d'un vaste paysage? Quand un de ses rares supporters, le peintre Carl Gustav Carus, avança la candidature de Friedrich pour le poste d'enseignant, les membres de l'Académie se demandèrent si une personne ayant des perceptions si mélancoliques pourrait être un pédagogue responsable.

Cette scène - une scène clé - est typique du ton instructif et un peu sentencieux du film. Fréquemment, on assiste à un débat entre amis ou adversaires - dont le seul but est de parler de Friedrich, sans valeur dramatique. Néanmoins, pour lier ces séquences péneuses, Schamoni - scénariste - a fait un choix judicieux. Au lieu de nous confier une interprétation de sa personne, il expose son sujet de manière réfractée. S'appuyant sur le recueil littéraire du peintre, il le fait commenter en voix off ses croquis et ses tableaux. C'est donc d'après son art - illuminé par ses propres paroles - qu'on se rend compte de qui était Caspar David Friedrich.

Sami Kasmal

CINEMA

TELEVISION

DIMANCHE

17h50 - Tel Père, Tel Fils: sitcom à la française, avec Jacques Balutin.
18h15 - L'Ecole des Fans, animée par Jacques Martin. Aujourd'hui consacrée au troisième âge.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Sélection de variétés françaises.

LUNDI

18h10 - «Le skieur du vide».

MARDI

18h20 - Des chiffres et des lettres.
18h40 - Tel Père, Tel Fils.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Anjouchebi en Jordanie: magazine local réalisé et présenté par Saleh Madi.

MERCREDI

18h10 - «Panique aux Caraïbes» série policière.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - «L'eau et le rêve» documentaire.

JEUDI

17h40 - «Molierissimo» (9)
18h10 - Des chiffres et des lettres: jeu.
18h30 - La Chance aux Champions.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Sélection de variétés françaises.

VENDREDI

17h25 - «Le grand restaurant». Film de divertissement, avec Louis de Funès et Bernard Blier. L'histoire d'un restaurant fréquenté par les plus grandes célébrités jusqu'au jour où le président d'un pays d'Amérique du sud y disparaît mystérieusement.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Magazine Contact. Consacré aujourd'hui à l'Institut du Monde Arabe de Paris.

SAMEDI

17h30 - «Le monde est à vous» émission de jeu et de variétés présentée par Jacques Martin, avec Michel Sardou, le groupe Kassav et William Scheller.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Le 10ème festival mondial du cirque, à Paris.

CONCERTS

Piano. Concert présenté par les élèves du conservatoire national de musique.
Centre culturel royal, le 28 juin à 18h.

CONFERENCES

Architecture. Présentation de diapositives sur l'architecture en Jordanie et en Palestine par M. Bilal Hammad, diplômé de l'école d'architecture d'Alexandrie.
Institut Goethe, le mardi 26 à 19h.

JEUX

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

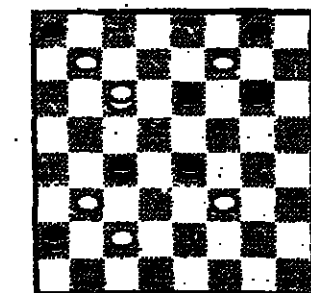
COUVERTURE. A la fois trop riches pour bénéficier de l'aide sociale et trop pauvres pour payer l'assurance maladie, 31,5 millions d'Américains sont privés de soins médicaux gratuits. Des couples mariés et sans enfants, avec un revenu mensuel de 800 à 1200\$ n'ont pas les moyens de payer 300\$ par mois pour une assurance maladie mais gagnent trop pour bénéficier de Medicaid, le programme d'assurance des plus pauvres.

SEISMES. Plus d'un millier de stations de relevés sismiques situées partout dans le monde sont désormais reliées entre elles en temps réel grâce au nouveau réseau sismique mondial, installé à Erice, en Sicile. Cette interconnexion devrait permettre d'améliorer les techniques de prévision et de réduire les marges d'erreur.

SIDA. Des chercheurs américains sur le Sida viennent de découvrir chez le singe un virus de la même famille, particulièrement agressif. Le SIV (Simian Immunodeficiency Virus) entraîne la mort de l'animal dans les huit jours suivant l'inoculation. Les scientifiques n'excluent pas une mutation du virus humain vers cette forme hyper-agressive, mais ils considèrent également que le SIV peut aider à la recherche thérapeutique.

DAMES

Problème N. 16.



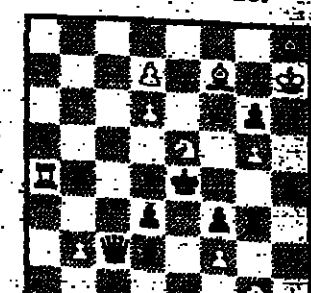
Les blancs gagnent en six coups.

Solution du problème N. 15:

B. 31-27; N. 23-30; B. 22-26; N. 14-32; B. 6-10; N. 30-21; B. 10-26; N. 12-19; B. 26-21; N. 3-12; B. 21-14.

ECHECS

Problème N. 16.



Mat avec les blancs en deux coups.

Solution du problème N. 15:

D6-f5.

Mots croisés

par Florence Monest

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.

1. devoir. 2. châtiment toutes à Rome. 3. négation; dans latin; gaulois. 4. allonger; infini. 5. conduisant. 6. naïveté. 7. dieu du soleil; au bout du sein. 8. tiers du lait; Ecole Nationale d'Administration. 9. se rendront. 10. on la demande aux enfants boudiers; coordonne.

(Solution la semaine prochaine)

Solution de la grille N. 15:

Horizontalement.

1. impossible. 2. noire; voir. 3. fesse; bête. 4. orteil. 5. raie; longan. 6. millénaire. 7. es; tel; 8; ar; émet. 9. Anne; sucre. 10. sacs; ar.

Verticalement.

A: informer. B: mourir; un. C: pistil; éme. D: orbe; laves. E: se; le. F: blonde. G: fre; na; au. H: bot; gléce. I: lé; uretre. J: es; réel; at.

Vale, Egeria

Golf encore, broum, broum

Vive le sport, broum, broum

Peter Abou-Golf

Brazil practises penalties before Argentina clash

TURIN (Agencies) — Brazil's World Cup squad turned their attention to penalties Friday as they prepared to meet holders Argentina in the first knockout stage.

Manager Sebastiao Lazaroni is well aware that Sunday's South American clash would go to extra time and, if still even, a penalty shoot-out.

"Our matches against Argentina are always very difficult and I'm sure this one will be no different," he said after a full training session near this northern city.

Ricardo Rocha, Careca, Alemão, Valdo and Branco, whose fearsome free-kick conceded Scotland's Murdoch Macleod on Wednesday, led the penalty practice and took the main candidates for Sunday.

Bebeto, the gifted but frail striker whose career has been plagued by injury, again failed to train because of a swollen knee and his role for Brazil in Italy must now be in doubt.

Brazilian officials also said Alemão and Jorginho were nursing strains but would be fit for the line-up.

The eleven who finished the Scotland match are likely to face

Argentina with defender Ricardo Rocha keeping out Mozer and goalscorer Muller in attack instead of Romario who still lacks match fitness.

The players looked relaxed and confident as they spoke to the media after the training session. "Maradona can win a match in only a few seconds and we will obviously be keeping a close eye on him, though other players will receive similar attention," Alemão said.

"There is no way Maradona can be marked out of the game as such... blocked is the best you can hope for," said the Napoli midfielder who plays alongside the Argentine captain in the Italian league.

Keeper Claudio Taffarel, whose point-blank save against Maurice Johnston in the last minute dumped Scotland out of the cup, was also kept busy with penalty practice albeit at the other end of the firing line.

"The coach naturally is concerned about a penalty shoot-out though if it reaches that stage it is probably luck as much as anything that counts," he said.

Jorginho summed up the mood of the players when he told reporters: "For us the cup really begins on Sunday."

Havelange defends refereeing standards

ROME (AP) — FIFA President Joao Havelange Friday defended the standard of refereeing during the World Cup, saying officiating at matches had never been better.

The head of soccer's governing body deflected criticism from media commentators and his organisation's own secretary-general, Joseph Blatter, who had pinpointed inconsistencies and errors by referees during the first round of the competition.

"The rules created 100 years ago are still perfect if they are interpreted properly," Havelange told a press conference. "The referees in the tournament have done well in both interpretation and application."

Blatter last weekend slammed referees Luigi Agnolin of Italy and Alexei Spirin of the Soviet Union for overlooking fouls during first-round games and suggested they should not officiate again in the tournament.

Havelange praised the work of the FIFA referees' committee, which appoints officials to matches.

"There are always going to be problems with referees, but there is less dissension here than in previous World Cups," he said.

Havelange said FIFA officials grading the performances of referees during the first round had given match officials an average of 8.5 points out of 10.

The FIFA president said there was no possibility of the 1994 World Cup being switched from the United States, despite criticism of that country's poor playing standards.

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Belgians expect England to be a tough opponent

PESCARINA, Italy (AP) — Belgian coach Guy Thys and his players said Friday they expect England to be a tough opponent in the second round.

"England is very strong. They are in excellent physical condition," Thys said. "I hope we have sufficient technical skills to take them on. They are very fast and precise. They go all out and we will have to avoid the duels as much as possible."

The Belgians coasted through their first two matches, despatching South Korea 2-0 and then Uruguay 3-1, but they met their match Thursday, going down 2-1 to Spain, the eventual Group E winners.

Spain now faces Yugoslavia in Verona on June 26, while Belgium travels to Bologna to play England on the same day to wrap up the second-round matches.

Key defender Eric Gerets, who sat out the Spain-Belgium match because of a suspension, took a positive attitude toward the upcoming match.

"All opponents in the finals are difficult," Gerets said. "If you want to win the World Cup you have to beat everyone, so we may as well start with England."

Thys should also have the two injured Belgian defenders Leo Clajsters and Georges Grun at his disposal for the next match.

Goalkeeper Michel Preud'Homme said the team was "a little bit disappointed" that they had gone down to Spain.

"First there was the penalty and then the second (Spanish) goal from the corner was a very difficult one for a keeper," he said. "But it's a way of life for a keeper."

Looking forward to the match with England, Preud'Homme said he had watched England against both Ireland and Holland.

"They can play football," he said. "But they can also kick and rush and fight. They are very dangerous with the corners and the free kicks."

Belgium, happy in their tranquil village location near Verona, has decided not to decamp. They will travel to Bologna by bus for the 9 p.m. match.

Thys and Dr. Michel d'Hooghe, the president of the Belgian Football Federation, said Friday they had sent congratulations to Luis Suarez and the Spanish Football Federation.

"The match was perfect example of the type of sportsman-like play that FIFA are trying to encourage," d'Hooghe said.

No yellow warnings were handed down to any player.

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Cameroun defeats Colombia

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — Substitute striker Roger Milla scored twice in extra time to lift Cameroun to a 2-1 victory over Colombia Saturday in a second-round World Cup match.

The goals were 38-year-old Milla's third and fourth of the tournament and made Cameroun the first African nation to reach the quarterfinals in the 60-year history of the World Cup.

The teams had been level 0-0 at the end of the regulation 90 minutes. The match was a dull one, with both teams cautious and unable to create scoring chances.

Milla, who came out of retirement to play in the tournament, also scored two goals against Romania in the first round.

His four goals make him the tournament's joint top-scorer, along with Spanish midfielder Michel, who also has scored four goals.

Milla's first goal came in the 16th minute of extra time when he took on and beat two defenders and rifed a shot past goalkeeper Rene Higuita.

He struck again three minutes later, when Higuita recklessly ventured upfield. Milla robbed him off the ball and headed for goal, firing a low shot into the

unguarded net.

Bernardo Redin scored a consolation goal for Colombia with four minutes of extra time remaining.

Four Cameroun players: Andre Kana Biyik, Akim N'dip, Emile Mbouh and Jules Onana received yellow cards during the match.

All had received yellow card previously in the tournament, according to the official FIFA list. All face one-game suspensions.

Cameroun will play either England or Belgium in the quarterfinals of the tournament. Those teams play each other Tuesday in Bologna.

Milla's goals broke open the match just when it seemed it was destined to be decided by a penalty shoot-out.

"This victory is for my country... and for all of Africa," Milla said. "We will put ourselves to work immediately to begin preparing for the quarterfinals."

Colombia dominated the first half, but was unable to find a way through the packed Cameroun defense.

Midfielders Carlos Valderrama and Leonel Alvarez created a series of chances for speedy strikers Freddy Rincon and Carlos Estrada, but he Colombian finishing was erratic.

Estrada broke clear in the seventh minute, but his lazy side-footed shot was easily saved by goalkeeper Thomas K'ono.

Luis Fajardo came close to opening the scoring in the 22nd minute, but his rasping shot flew across the face of goal.

Cameroun carved a good chance in the 30th minute when Francois Omam Biyik broke down the right and crossed it to Cyrille Makanaky, who blasted his shot inches over the crossbar.

Colombia regained control, however, and Estrada forced a sharp save from N'kono after the Cameroun defense failed to clear a free-kick.

Seconds before the halftime break, Rincon hit a powerful free-kick that beat N'kono but bounced off the junction of the post and crossbar.

Both defenses kept a tight grip during the second half and both attacks tended to over-elaborate.

Clearcut chances were at a minimum — and it was the same pattern in extra time until Milla exploded.

The veteran had replaced Louis Mfiede in the 53rd minute.

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Moroccan wins 5,000 metre race in France

ST. DENIS, France (AP) — World cross-country champion Khalid Skah of Morocco beat Arturo Barrios of Mexico in a fast 5,000 metre Friday in the highlight of an international track and field meet.

Skah, who upset the field at the world cross-country championships last March in Aix-les-Bains, France, posted a time of 13 minutes, 16.73 seconds in cool and damp conditions.

Barrios, the world record holder in the 10,000 metres, was second in 13:17.17. He set the 10,000 mark last year.

Skah's compatriot, Olympic 10,000-metre champion Ibrahim Boutayeb, dropped down to the 1,500 metres but was beaten by Jose Moreira of Portugal in 3:41.34.

Another Olympic champion, Paul Ereng of Kenya, lost in the 800 metres. Dieudonne Kwizera

of Burundi was in third place heading into the final stretch but beat Ereng in a sprint, 1:47.85 to 1:47.93.

In the men's 110 hurdles, Poland's Tomasz Nagorka held off the French duo of Philippe Tourret and Stephane Caristan. Nagorka won in 13.57 with Tourret at 13.60 and Caristan third in 13.68.

Merlene Ottey of Jamaica scored a double in the women's sprints. She won the 100 in 11.08, then ran away with the 200 in 22.21.

In the women's 100-metre hurdles, Monique of France posted her fourth win of the international season with a time of 13.02.

The top performance in the field events was in the woman's high jump, where Yugoslavia's Biljana Petrovic set a national record of 2.00 metres.

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Handwritten signature: *Abu Nazmi*

Challenging Gorbachev, Russian party picks conservative chief

MOSCOW (R) — The new Russian Communist Party elected a hardline opponent of Kremlin reform as its chief Saturday, posing a fresh political challenge for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Ivan Polozkov, 55, a party boss from a key agricultural region who has campaigned against many of Gorbachev's reforms, was elected first secretary in a run-off ballot at the Russian party's founding congress.

He defeated Oleg Lobov, second-in-command in the party in Armenia, and widely seen as a centrist in the Gorbachev mould. The appointment of Polozkov strengthened the prospect of a major challenge by conservatives to Gorbachev's leadership of the central Soviet party at a crucial congress next month.

The Russian party, formed earlier this week within the framework of the Soviet party, has about 11 million of the Soviet Union's total 19 million party

members. Gorbachev's rivals, reaping political capital from widespread popular fears of food price rises, dominated the Russian congress with criticism of his economic reforms. They particularly damned the planned switch to a market system.

Few of Gorbachev's allies managed to speak and the 59-year-old leader, combative by instinct, was unusually mute in the face of criticism.

Since Communists hold the majority in the Russian and Soviet parliaments, Polozkov is now well-placed to frustrate Gorbachev's policies as well as those of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, a radical who wants the pace of reform to be

accelerated.

Polozkov, heavily-built with black hair swept back, ran against the hugely-popular Yeltsin in the Russian presidential election last month but pulled out after failing to gain solid support early on.

Although they occupy opposite poles of the Russian political spectrum, Polozkov says he is prepared to work with Yeltsin. "I have had no confrontation with Boris Yeltsin. This is why I believe there is no need for me to suggest anything for consolidation. We shall simply work together," Polozkov told TASS news agency after his election.

Gorbachev, who also holds the powerful post of state president, may now have to fight to retain his position as Soviet party general secretary if conservatives field a candidate at the July congress.

Hardline politburo member Yegor Ligachev has suggested Gorbachev should step down and concentrate on his presidential

duties.

Polozkov, in a conciliatory speech after being elected, said he was open to suggestions from all sectors of the party to promote a renewal of party ranks.

Huge tasks lay before the party, he said, and the scale of restructuring required was vast. "We will have to be thoughtful, moderate, democratic and realistic," he said.

His conciliatory tone contrasted with an earlier speech to the gathering in which he called for loyalty to classic Marxist principles.

He later suggested he had been omitted from the initial list of candidates for the Russian party leadership because of his orthodox views.

As a party boss in Krasnodar, a key farming region in southern Russia, Polozkov has been a bitter opponent of a fledgling cooperative movement started under Gorbachev.

Opposition parties unite against Ershad

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's three opposition alliances have called for a national strike next Thursday in a renewed show of unity aimed at toppling President Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

The three alliances, representing 20 political parties, said Saturday the 12-hour stoppage would be a fresh campaign against Ershad, who has ruled this impoverished South Asian nation for more than eight years.

"Let us try once again to get rid of military dictatorship," they said in three separate but similar statements.

They criticised the new national budget in which the government has proposed extra taxes of \$171.47 million on a large number of consumer and luxury goods.

"This government has imposed taxes on salt, sugar and edible oil. Who is going to be affected? Only the poor people out there," the alliances said.

They said they feared the additional taxes will be used to beef up the military.

The alliances include an eight-party grouping led by Sheikh Hasina, chief of the Awami League, and a seven-party alliance headed by Begum Khaleda Zia, chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Ershad, who seized power in a military coup in 1982, survived a fierce campaign against him in 1987 after personality clashes ripped the opposition unity apart.

Ruling Jatiya Party leaders said they doubted if the renewed unity would last.

"The unequals have again banded together. They will start fighting among themselves again. So we are not worried," said Shah Moazzem Hossain, secretary-general of the Jatiya Party.

Tamil Tigers renew attack on Jaffna base

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil separatist guerrillas besieging a military base in a 300-year-old fort in northern Jaffna town have intensified attacks on troops trapped inside, military sources said Saturday.

They said Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) made a strong assault Friday night with mortar bombs and rocket-propelled grenades.

The 240 soldiers and 60 policemen inside fought back with small-arms, artillery and mortar bombs, the sources said.

The fort, built by Dutch colonialists, has been under siege for nine days and the sources said its occupants were running out of food.

A helicopter dropped eight food packages but only three landed inside the fort.

The sources said that in another clash between government forces and guerrillas, 10 Tigers were killed when a navy gunboat destroyed a vessel carrying rebels off the coast of the Jaffna peninsula.

Tigers firing automatic weapons damaged an air force helicopter on a supply mission to

an army camp at Mankulam in the northern province. The fuselage and rotor blades were damaged but no injuries were reported.

Another battle erupted when security forces raided a rebel hideout at Vavuniya in the north, causing heavy casualties, the sources said.

They said four soldiers were killed and eight wounded. "There were heavy casualties on the enemy side," a military officer said. He was unable to give figures.

More than 200,000 people have fled fighting during 13 days of battles between security forces and guerrillas campaigning for an independent homeland, official sources said.

Most of the fugitives are from the Batticaloa and Amparai districts in the east. The government has made an international appeal for food, clothing and medicine for them.

The latest wave of fighting erupted on June 11 when Tigers attacked army camps and police stations in the north and east, abandoning 14 months of peace talks.

U.K. gives press 'last chance' for self-discipline

LONDON (AP) — The government has warned British newspapers that a 12-month deadline to stop invasions of privacy or face tough new controls is their "last chance" to discipline themselves.

"We will not flinch from introducing statutory regulation of the press," Home Secretary David Waddington said, writing in the Times of London.

"We all hope that it will not come to this. But it is up to the industry — proprietors, editors and journalists — to realise this hope, for no one else can."

Britain's racy tabloids, the prime target of the ultimatum, conjured up a dire vision of their journalists being jailed for going on a favourite assignment dogging royalty — if the government goes ahead with the threat.

The Journalists' Union and editors' organisations also protested that the move threatened press freedom, while highbrow newspapers accused the tabloids of bringing trouble on them all.

But amid the protests and finger-pointing, there was also recognition that the fiercely competitive popular newspapers go too far.

Canada's Meech Lake pact dies

OTTAWA (R) — Weeks of frantic, last-minute negotiation designed to give Quebec special constitutional status within Canada has collapsed, leaving the future of the French-speaking province unclear.

"English Canada must understand that Quebec is today, and has always been, a distinct society, free and able to assume control of its destiny," said Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa, in a veiled threat to English Canada that his province could survive on its own.

Senior federal cabinet minister Lowell Murray said late Friday that there was no hope of saving the accord, which enshrines Quebec's status as a "distinct society," by midnight Saturday, when the pact expires if it is not ratified by all 10 provinces.

Bourassa, who earlier this year raised the possibility of seeking a new relationship for Quebec and Canada, warned several weeks ago he wanted the accord signed

by Saturday at the latest.

The so-called Meech Lake Accord is designed to bring Quebec into the Canadian constitution by giving it special powers to protect its culture and language. The constitution, repatriated from Britain in 1982, was never signed by Quebec.

Canada's conservative government, elected on a vow to unify the nation, said the years of efforts to make French-speaking Quebec a constitutional partner and heal deep linguistic wounds had failed.

The accord, drafted in 1987 and empowering Quebec to protect its heritage against assimilation into English Canada, was the product of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's efforts to welcome Quebec as a willing partner in confederation with "honour and enthusiasm."

With Manitoba and Newfoundland the only provinces not having ratified the pact, three years of negotiations unravelled Friday

when procedural wrangling in Manitoba's legislature prevented it from passing the accord while Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells refused to allow his assembly to vote on it.

The decision by Premier Wells not to respect his commitment and not have a vote has killed the last hope of success of the Meech Lake Accord," Senator Murray, the federal-provincial affairs minister, told reporters.

Wells, who opposed a clause in the accord granting Quebec special distinct status and the pressure-filled atmosphere of eleven-hour talks in recent weeks, said the accord could be salvaged if premiers return to the table.

"I don't think the accord is totally dead," Wells said. "If there's any goodwill left in the country then we will be able to do something still with the whole issue of responding to Quebec's legitimate concerns in an appropriate way."

EC sends emergency aid to Liberia

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Community's (EC) executive commission Friday sent more than \$2 million worth of medical aid to victims of the fighting in Liberia.

The aid, worth a total 1.65 million European Currency Units (ECU) (\$2.01 million) will be divided between three regions.

Liberian refugees in Guinea will get 600,000 ECUs (\$722,000), those in Sierra Leone will get 400,000 ECUs (\$488,000) and the remaining 650,000 ECUs

(\$793,000) will go to displaced persons in Liberia.

The money will be used by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the League of Red Cross Societies and the Belgian branch of the French medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres to buy medicines and medical equipment for the refugees.

On the battle front, rebels advancing on the Liberian capital Monrovia clashed with government troops Friday near a Voice

of America (VOA) radio transmitter.

Residents fleeing the area said they heard firing near Careyburg, captured by the rebels Wednesday, which is just a mile from the transmitter.

Careyburg is 30 kilometres northeast of Monrovia where President Samuel Doe has surrounded himself with Israeli-trained bodyguards and his best troops. Many Liberians fear a bloody battle for Monrovia.

Japanese premier attends Okinawa memorial service

YOKOHAMA, Japan (R) — Forty-five years after the end of World War II, Toshiki Kaifu became the first Japanese prime minister to attend a memorial service for victims of the Battle of Okinawa and apologise to the islanders for their losses.

"I must say I am sorry ... for the loss of the 200,000 lives in the only land battle in Japan during the last war. This shall not be forgotten," Kaifu told about 6,000 relatives of victims at the peace memorial park in Itoyan.

The park is on a hill on the southern tip of Okinawa, the southern prefecture where the Japanese army made its last stand before surrendering to American forces on June 23, 1945.

The late Emperor Hirohito never visited Okinawa to pay his respects to the war dead, and before Kaifu no Japanese prime minister had attended the June 23 service.

Kaifu's predecessors said their attendance at war memorial rites

in Tokyo every Aug. 15 — the anniversary of Japan's formal surrender — was sufficient.

At present there is no plan for a visit to Okinawa by Emperor Akihito, a tribute most Okinawans say is long overdue.

Many at the service applauded when Kaifu arrived, but some still bore resentment.

"It's too late," said Eishin Nagamine, 68, a former sailor in the Japanese Navy who lost his entire family in the battle.

Okinawa was governed by the U.S. military until 1972, when the administration reverted to the Tokyo government. Nagamine said the prime minister and the emperor should have come soon after that.

At noon, Kaifu and other participants observed a minute's silence and placed chrysanthemums in front of an altar in memory of the dead.

The three-month battle, known here as the "Gale of Iron," was by far the fiercest fighting in the Pacific theatre.

Researchers see ray of hope for AIDS vaccine

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Scientists offered a glimmer of hope in the decade-old fight against AIDS, telling the sixth international AIDS conference that a vaccine against the fatal disease might be on the horizon.

"In the past year or so, we've cracked open the door on the optimism for a vaccine," Dr. Wayne Koff, head of the AIDS Vaccine Development Programme for the U.S. National Institutes of Health, told reporters.

"I think in the next two or three years we will knock it down."

Dr. Jonas Salk, the father of the polio vaccine, said earlier Friday that he would soon begin large-scale trials of his experimental AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) vaccine.

He said he thought the vaccine might also give some therapeutic benefit to people infected with the disease.

"At the moment, we're farther ahead in treatment than in prevention," said Salk, who has been testing a vaccine, first on chimpanzees and then on other animals, for several years.

He said he would report later this year on the results of tests on chimpanzees which were given doses of his vaccine nearly two years ago.

Dr. Alexandra Levin, a colleague, said the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had authorised Salk's research team to start testing of his vaccine on 600 to 700 infected but symptomless people. The tests were expected to begin soon.

Salk has said that his vaccine appears to build up resistance to infection in chimpanzees and to wipe out all traces of the AIDS virus in infected animals.

The 12,000 AIDS researchers, doctors and community workers

attending the conference were expected to hold their last full day of scientific presentations Saturday.

Some delegates planned to join a march organised by local groups which are dedicated to homosexual rights and provide help for people stricken with AIDS.

Demonstrators, seeking more government medical help and faster work on the development of drugs, have staged mostly peaceful protests in the streets since the conference opened Wednesday.

About 300 people have been arrested on minor charges during carefully planned sit-downs to block traffic. But there have been almost none of the noisy protests by AIDS activists which characterised last year's conference, held in Montreal.

Meanwhile the World Health Organisation (WHO) said Friday the number of AIDS cases in the European Community (EC) is expected to double by the end of next year to 65,000 to 75,000.

Between 30,000 and 40,000 new cases of AIDS are expected to be diagnosed in the 12 countries of the EC in 1990 and 1991, the WHO Collaborating Centre reported at the AIDS conference.

Angela Downs, a researcher at the Paris Centre, said the number of new AIDS cases was increasing in all major transmission groups but the rate of increase had slowed among homosexual and bisexual men.

She said the proportion of cases among intravenous drug users had increased steadily in the EC, which now accounts for more than 90 per cent of the reported cases in Europe.

Downs said data indicated that the incidence of AIDS associated with heterosexual transmission in the EC was not yet approaching its peak.

U.S. firm unveils new tactical fighter jet

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California (AP) — Northrop Corp. has unveiled its version of a sleek, Stealth fighter plane, for the 21st century, a prototype competing against Lockheed Corp. for a shrinking share of defence dollars.

The YF-23 is the Northrop version of the super-sonic advanced tactical fighter (ATF), a futuristic aircraft the air force wants, in order to maintain an superiority edge well into the next century.

The ATF would replace the air force's current air superiority fighter, the F-15 Eagle, built by McDonnell Douglas.

Northrop is teamed with McDonnell Douglas against Lockheed Corp. in a competition for the ATF contract, the last remaining major defence contract of the 1990s.

Kent Kresa, chief executive officer and president of Northrop, hailed the aircraft as "an example of America's leadership in aviation... in an era when American competitiveness is being tested continually worldwide."

The air force wants to build 750 of the high-technology fighters. But the request comes during a period of increasing congressional demands for defence spending cuts because of improved East-West relations, and layoffs of thousands of aerospace workers nationwide.

Rep. Les Aspin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has suggested upgrades of the F-15 and F-16 fighters in lieu of building a force of futuristic superfighters.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, in a cost-cutting move, recently played the requested start-up of production for the ATF until 1996.

But air force officials contend the aircraft is necessary because of the advancing age of its current inventory of fighter aircraft and because they say the ATF, along with the B-2 Stealth bomber, is a revolutionary aircraft.

"We've never fought a war where we didn't enjoy air superiority," said Brig.-Gen. James A. Fair Jr. "I don't think America would stand for sending its sons and daughters to a war where we didn't have air superiority."

Estimated cost of the ATF is \$51 million per plane. Fighters such as the F-15 Eagle cost a little more than half that.

The sophisticated attributes advertised for the ATF include radar-evading Stealth capability, combined with high manoeuvrability and the ability to cruise at super-sonic speeds for extended periods.

Air force officials argue the need for a futuristic air fleet, saying although world tensions are easing there is no guarantee that will always be the case. A Northrop ATF programme official echoed that sentiment.

'Berlin troops could be observer force'

WEST BERLIN (R) — Former West German Defence Minister Rupert Scholz suggested Saturday that troops of the World War II allies remaining in Berlin could become an arms control observer force.

Scholz, a member of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrat Party, said the force could be part of new security institutions under the 35-nation Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Since conventional arms reduction pacts negotiated in the CSCE framework would require multinational verification, "the four allies could carry out such verification tasks in and from Berlin with their troop contingents," Scholz told the Berliner Morgenpost.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze suggested Friday that all allied troops be withdrawn from Berlin within six months of German unification, expected to be consecrated with pan-German elections in December.

Western foreign ministers rejected the proposal, part of a Soviet plan for a 50 per cent cut in allied troops in Germany over three years and demotion of united German armed forces to a limited territorial defence force.

Britain, France and the United States have a total of about 12,000 soldiers in West Berlin and the Soviet Union has about 2,500 in East Berlin. Stronger Soviet forces are stationed outside the city, in East Germany.

Zhao still missing a year after being purged

PEKING (AP) — The steel red double doors of No. 6 Fuziang Lane are closed tight, and knots of police eye the curious people who pass by the reported home of China's most famous political prisoner, former Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang.

"I can't talk here," said one Chinese woman glancing nervously at the walled compound where Zhao and his family are said to reside.

The tree-lined lane is similar to the thousands of narrow, picturesque alleyways that make up the heart of old Peking. But the entrance to Fuziang, several blocks east of the Forbidden City, is guarded by plainclothes police. An armed policeman stands in the middle of the lane, and more police huddle at the end of the block.

It has been one year since the Communist Party Central Committee met on June 24 to purge the pro-reform Zhao of all his party posts, accusing him of "splitting the party" and "supporting the turmoil." Shanghai bureaucrat Jiang Zemin, a political hardliner, was named the new party general-secretary.

The "turmoil" referred to the student-led pro-democracy movement that the military brutally crushed three weeks earlier, on June 4. Zhao opposed the military intervention, but was overruled by Premier Li Peng and other conservatives who used the dispute to drive Zhao and his supporters from power.

Zhao's last public appearance was on May 19, 1989, when he had a tearful meeting with student hunger strikers on Tianan-

men Square. The next day, Li Peng declared martial law in Peking.

Zhao has not been seen since. His only known contact with the outside world came recently when former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said Zhao responded to a personal letter.

In the weeks after his purge, Zhao was maligned in the official press as a man who had "vilified and repudiated the fine traditions" of the Communist Party. Party leaders hinted strongly that Zhao would face criminal charges for supporting the democracy movement, or "counter-revolutionary rebellion." Members of his family were also said to be under investigation for economic crimes.

Zhao, now 70, may have avoided a trial so far because he has long been a favourite of senior leader Deng Xiaoping. For nearly a decade — first as premier and then as party boss — Zhao was a chief proponent of Deng's market-oriented reforms that brought new levels of prosperity to the Chinese people.

The conservatives may be treading cautiously because party reformers, while in retreat the past year, are still a popular and formidable force, particularly in areas of the country that have benefited from the reforms.

"Zhao may have made some mistakes," Guo Shuyan, governor of the central province of Hubei said in a recent interview, "but we shouldn't blame him for everything."

Unable to reach a consensus, the party has left Zhao in limbo.



Zhao Ziyang

His old rival Li Peng said in April that Zhao was a "free man" who was still a member of the Communist Party and enjoyed "quite good living conditions." Li said Zhao — reported to have suffered from heart trouble in late 1989 — was in good health, and joked that Zhao received a bigger salary than he did.

According to Hong Kong press reports, Zhao was summoned before members of the party politburo in late March and accused of seriously violating party discipline. But Zhao reportedly was unrepentant, and refused to admit any guilt.

Public criticism of Zhao has largely abated, although this week a leading national paper, the Guangming Daily, condemned his "indifference to ideological work and his mistaken course of action in allowing bourgeois liberalisation to spread

unchecked."

With the investigation into his case apparently going nowhere, the man still officially referred to as "comrade" faces an indefinite period of house arrest. His comfortable prison on Fuziang Lane was once the home of the late Hu Yaobang, Zhao's predecessor as party chief who was also purged, in January 1987, for showing sympathy to pro-democracy student demonstrations.

Some talk wistfully of a comeback when political fortunes change. After all, Deng was 74 when he made his last return to power in 1979.

But China watchers say Zhao has no political future unless China's leadership acknowledges it was wrong in its bloody suppression of the Tiananmen demonstrators — an unlikely prospect in the foreseeable future.

The current government has also undermined Zhao's power base by breaking up think tanks linked to him and arresting several of his key supporters, including Zhao's personal secretary, Bao Tong. Numerous Zhao people in both Peking and provincial government have been removed from their jobs in the past year.

Deng has proclaimed that new party leader Jiang is now the "core" of the next-generation leadership.

Jiang has learned a lesson from Deng's two previous proteges Hu and Zhao, both purged for their more independent spirits. He has carefully toed the rigid line set down by the aging leaders in their own walled compound not far from Fuziang Lane.

Art fortune destroyed in U.K. fire

LONDON (AP) — Fire gutted part of an 18th century mansion outside London, causing damage estimated at £50 million (\$86 million), a fire official said. A multi-million-pound fortune in art and antiques was destroyed, said Tony Baker, deputy fire chief for Buckinghamshire County. Police said no one was injured, but could not say whether Sheikh Mohammad Mahdi Al Tajir, one of the world's richest men, was home at the time of the fire. The blaze that sent flames 10 metres into the air, raged through the east wing of Dropmore House in Burnham, Buckinghamshire, 32 kilometres west of central London. More than 100 firefighters battled the blaze, some using water from the indoor swimming pool. Baker said damage to the mansion and contents could exceed £50 million (\$86 million). The east wing had suffered "substantial damage," he said. "We managed to save the other half of the house, and we are trying to salvage what we can." The house has 50 rooms with a lot of them full of very expensive antiques. Paintings, antique furniture and antique ivory are among the items lost.

Bangladesh's tallest man faces hunger

DHAKA (R) — The tallest man in Bangladesh, a 2.5-metre giant who finds food too distasteful to eat, appealed Thursday for medical aid to stop his growth and repair his health. "I am hungry but cannot eat food out of distaste. This has robbed me of all bodily strength," said the 28-year-old Parimal Chandra Barman as he struggled to his feet to speak to reporters in his home on the outskirts of Dhaka. "I don't want to die or become taller. Please, help me," said Barman, the youngest of six children in a fishing family. Barman is still growing, his father, Arjun Chandra, said. "We are scared for his life." Barman was a normal boy until 1973 when he suddenly began to grow very fast, his father said. "Now he is unable to walk or even stand up alone. His height is still increasing, though very slowly." Chandra said, adding that he is too poor to take his son to specialist doctors or to buy medicine.

Smokers may develop AIDS faster — study

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Smokers infected with the AIDS virus may develop the disease faster than non-smokers, researchers at the sixth international AIDS conference said Thursday. Scientists from the University of California at Berkeley said preliminary results of a study of 1,000 men indicated smoking appears to be a factor in the development of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

"We can't be sure, but it looks like the smokers are progressing faster to disease," said researcher Rachel Royce. "Over 56 months, they're nearly twice as likely to develop thrush, AIDS or die." Thrush is an infection of the mouth which shows up early in the progression of the disease. The subjects were studied over a 4½ year period.

Son did not believe mother was dead

CHEEKTOWAGA, New York (AP) — He lived with his mother's corpse for more than six months, but the son of an elderly woman refused to believe she was dead, police said. The body of Florence V. Kowalewski, 77, was found seated in a chair in the house where she had lived with her 47-year-old son, police Lt. Thomas Rowan said. "He was at home with his mother and denied she was dead when police told him," Rowan said. "She had been dead for more than six months and under a year." The son, whose identity was withheld, was admitted to the Erie County Medical Centre for psychiatric evaluation. Cheektowaga is a suburb of Buffalo. Police were called to the house by a social worker who became alarmed when no one answered, knocking at the door, Rowan said. An autopsy was inconclusive but the death was probably due to natural causes, he said.